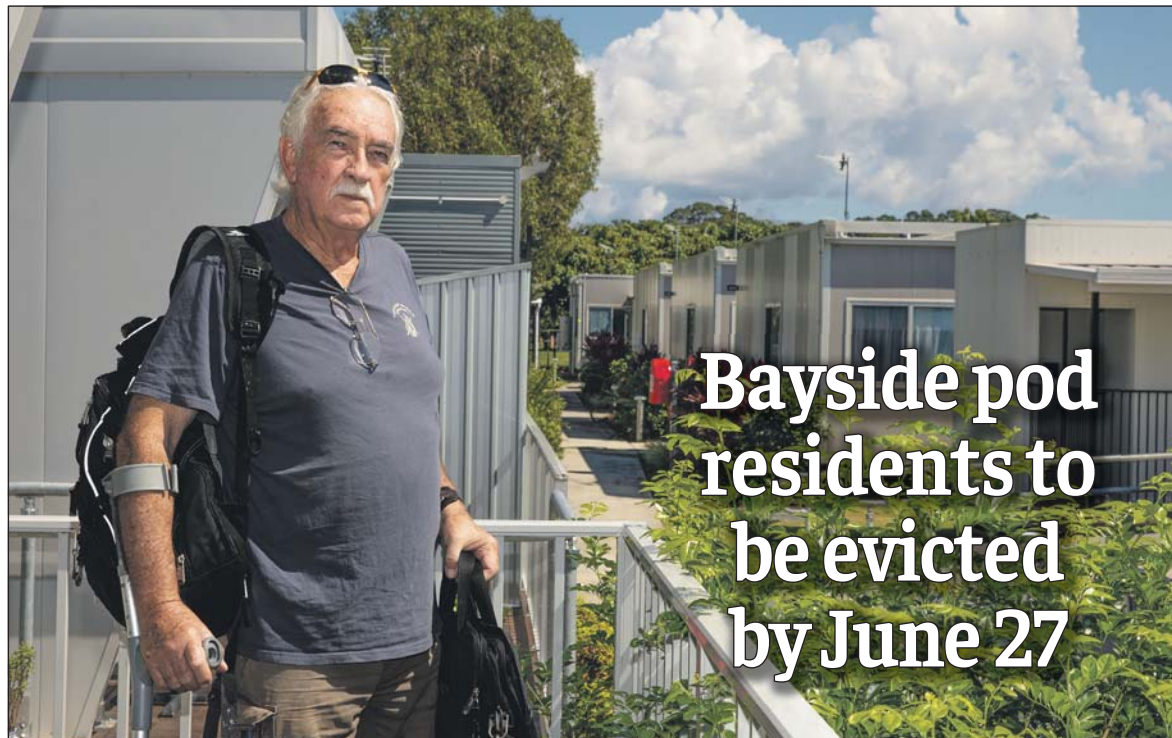




Bayside pod residents to be evicted by June 27

74-year-old Dirk Bamdist told *The Echo* he has found emergency accommodation in Ballina after being evicted from the Bayside pods in Brunswick Heads just before Cyclone Alfred. He says he has nowhere to go and was made homeless. 'I found temporary accommodation via the "Link to Home" program in

Ballina', he says. 'The NSW Reconstruction Authority told me I was ineligible for accommodation at the Bruns pods because I was still on a lease at my former home, which was flood-affected in 2022. I cannot return there'. Photo Eve Jeffery
► See page 3 for full story on pod evictions.

Council GM, Greens mayor, ramp up home demolition threats on Main Arm community

Hans Lovejoy

Threats of multiple home demolition are still a reality for a small vulnerable community of long-term locals living in Main Arm, with a renewed, united push from Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye and Council's General Manager, Mark Arnold.

They are backing compliance department demands that multiple homes be assessed against building codes to ensure 'public safety'.

A 12-month timeframe has been provided, and comes after compliance inspections of individual

homes escalated to the entire multiple occupancy (MO).

Kohinoor Pty Ltd is managed by landowners under a company structure (MO), which has been in existence since 1971.

A neighbour's complaint in July last year led to compliance raids and a subsequent demolition order on the entire shared property.

The actions come despite Council's enforcement policy, which expired last year, being under review. All councillors agreed it needed to be updated in March.

Greens councillor Elia Hauge

said in the press release at the time, "Compassion" or "sensitivity" do not appear anywhere in the current policy, which also makes no reference to *Byron Shire Council's 2022 Unauthorised Dwellings Guideline*.

Cr Hauge told *The Echo* on deadline on Tuesday she will be submitting a motion for the next meeting 'to suspend orders while enforcement policy is being reviewed, and a question about Council's power to suspend a specific order'.

Cr Ndiaye told *The Echo* she supports a March 27 letter by Council's
► Continued on page 4

Landmark report plots future for creatives

Paul Bibby

The arts sector in the Northern Rivers is a unique and beautiful organism.

Woven deeply into the fabric of our community, it is a key attraction for visitors, a major employer of locals and – most importantly – a prism that reflects the colourful spectrum of who we are.

But like so many other sectors in our region, the arts have been bounced around like a cork on a raging river in recent times – bearing the brunt of the pandemic, multiple natural disasters, and the economic downturn.

This week, Arts Northern Rivers has released a landmark report that both paints a picture of the current state of the arts and offers a road map toward brighter times.

The first comprehensive mapping of the Northern Rivers creative sector in over 15 years, the *Who We Are* report reveals that our region has the largest cultural sector in

regional Australia.

Local cultural and creative businesses grew 27 per cent between 2016 and 2021, the report found, generating an estimated \$900 million in business turnover in 2021.

High creative numbers

Not surprisingly, the local creative workforce lifted with the rising tide, expanding at four times the national average between 2011 and 2020.

But this upward climb was followed by an equally dramatic fall in fortunes over the last four to five years.

With government funding and audience engagement both drying up, and physical infrastructure battered by the floods, many arts organisations have been forced to cut staff, downscale their operations and, in some cases, close up shop completely.

The solution, unsurprisingly, is far from simple.

According to Arts Northern

► Continued on page 4



Arts Northern Rivers Executive Director Jane Fuller. Photo Eve Jeffery



Happy birthday, BayFM! ► p7



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Small steps taken in drug reform ► p17

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Have a scoopa doopa time ► p24

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Plans underway for pod evictions

Hans Lovejoy

The Bayside pods at Brunswick Heads are among four North Coast temporary housing villages that will close on June 27.

Pod managers NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA), said in a statement that Kingscliff, Evans Head, and Pottsville pod villages will also close.

In the aftermath of the 2022 floods, RA established 11 temporary housing villages across the Northern Rivers on council and private land.

Unanswered questions

NSW Minister for Recovery, Janelle Saffin told *The Echo*, ‘My promise to [those impacted] is that we’ve got RA and Homes NSW working on a plan to get everyone the stable, long-term housing that they need and deserve.’

While that plan is under-way, many questions put to her office and RA remain unanswered, including the total number of people impacted, and what would happen if the part-landowner of the Bayside land, Clarence Property, refused to extend the lease.

Council is also part-owner of the land, which was pegged as open space for the suburb.

Council staff did not reply to *The Echo* around the future of the land it part-owns with Clarence Property, and referred the question to RA. Clarence Property did not reply to *The Echo* by deadline.

The Echo also asked RA: ‘Have Clarence Property requested that they purchase

the pods after eviction? ‘If not, what will happen with the pods? Will they be sold or if not moved where? Is it correct that each pod cost taxpayers \$800,000 on average?’

These questions were also put to the office of NSW Labor Minister for Recovery, Janelle Saffin, but there was no reply.

The Echo understands that at the Bayside pods, around 20 people are impacted.

Expired fed funding

The RA letter to the Bayside pod residents implied the closure was owing to an end to Australian federal funding, along with other reasons, such as land leases expiring.

The Echo asked local Labor MP, Justine Elliot, whether she lobbied for the grant to continue.

While she did not say, Mrs Elliot said, ‘The federal and state Labor governments have been providing support and funding for our community which was devastated by the floods, including funding for the pod villages’.

‘RA is working with Community Housing Providers (CPH) to find new accommodation for the residents’, she said.

An RA spokesperson said, ‘We know that the people in the villages still need some assistance, which is why we are working with Homes NSW on a plan to find suitable housing options for them to make sure their needs are met’.

‘All residents will be helped to find stable long-term accommodation either through the private rental market, social housing or aged care.

‘The sites were located on vacant blocks owned by state or local government entities or private landowners and were leased for a period of two to three years.

‘The Reconstruction Authority is also working with Homes NSW to see if operation of the villages can be extended for a further period.

‘This is happening because we want to make sure that people impacted by the floods get the housing they need while we work on building more social and affordable housing.

‘The villages were always intended to be temporary to support flood-impacted residents get their lives back on track. The first village to cease operating was the Wollongbar Temporary Housing Village in March this year’.

NSW Labor Minister for Recovery, Janelle Saffin, told *The Echo*, ‘I know that it’s been really tough for many of our people in the temporary housing villages since the floods. I want them to know that they’re not going to be forgotten’.

Mayor wants pods

Meanwhile, Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye says she will move a mayoral minute at the next Council meeting, calling for the pods to be retained by Council.

Given the pods are located on shared land, she said, ‘If possible, the nine pods on Council land in Brunswick Heads could remain in place, and the pods on Clarence Property land could be relocated on to Council land to provide ongoing emergency housing’.

Early birds get the Writers Fest tix



Local authors Sonya Voumard (*Tremor*), Pauline Menczer (*Surf Like a Woman*), and Naima Brown (*Mother Tongue*) joined artistic director Jessica Alice for the launch of the 2025 Byron Writers Festival last week. Around 70 guests including journalist and writer Kerry O’Brien, members of the Byron Writers Festival Board, NORPA CEO Julian Louis, and Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye gathered at The Book Room, where they were treated to a Welcome to Country by Arakwal Bundjalung woman Delta Kay. Early Bird tickets for the Byron Writers Festival are on sale now at www.events.humanitix.com/byron-writers-festival-2025-passes. Photo Jeff ‘Tragically With A Hip Replacement’ Dawson

Byron’s Marvell Hall renovated

A special morning tea to celebrate the renovation of Marvell Hall will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 10.30am.

The hall is located at 37 Marvell Street, Byron Bay.

The hall upgrade was funded by Byron Shire Council, and staff say there was a ‘generous contribution of \$65,000 from Marvell Hall’s operations which includes new air-conditioning, a new semi-commercial kitchen, accessibility upgrades and improved soundproofing’.

Council staff say upgrades to Marvell Hall were completed in December 2024,

and were funded through Council’s Capital Works Program.

‘The morning will kick off with a free taster session from Move It Dance Fitness

at 10am, followed by a cuppa and cake at 10.30am, and a chance to have a look at the new and improved space,’ Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said.

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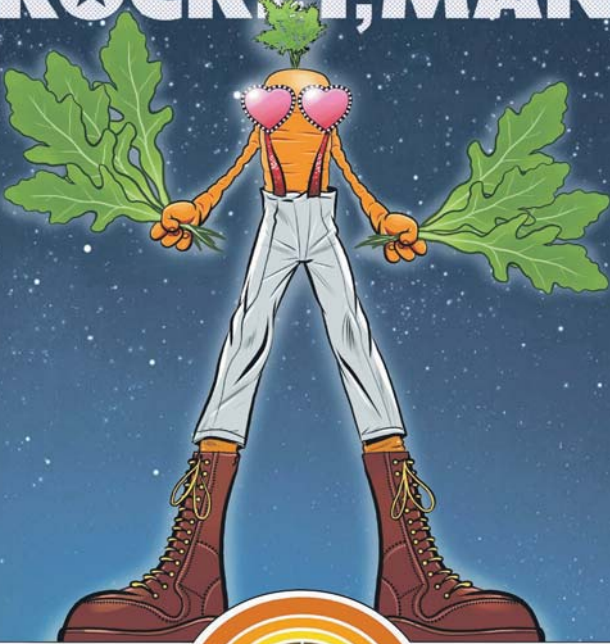
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Compliance push on rural community

► Continued from page 1
general manger, Mark Arnold to a shareholder, who was seeking clarity around the orders.

Mr Arnold told Charlie Boyle the demolition order still stands, and that the MO has 12 months to either resolve the development concerns or comply.

Cr Ndiaye said Mr Arnold's letter 'appears to be written in straightforward, clear language and outlines the process in detail. Additionally, the \$650 fee has been waived'.

'It also indicates that extensions may be possible if good faith and commitment are demonstrated'.

She added, 'I have not seen any responses [from the MO] sent before the requested extended date of March 21'.

Acting against will of councillors

Yet Dean of Law at SCU, Professor David Heilpern, told *The Echo*, 'Council is acting very strongly on a policy that councillors have clearly indicated is under review, as it may not meet the priorities and expectations of the current Council.'

'The proper thing to do in those circumstances is to wait with any radical, irreversible and drastic actions until the new council's policy review is complete.'

'What possible harm would there be in such a strategic, cautious and compassionate approach?'

Unfortunate media coverage, says GM

Council's GM Mark Arnold began his letter to Charlie Boyle with, 'It is unfortunate that this matter has been covered in the media, particularly given the efforts made by relevant staff to engage already with some of the lot owners in good faith'.

'As General Manager, it is not within my scope to intervene in compliance actions'.

Professor Heilpern challenged the comment, and said, 'The Office of Local Government states that the General Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Council, and the direction of staff. If the General Manager cannot rein in a compliance regime then who can?'

'Do compliance staff just have total, unfettered

discretion to apply ambiguous policy without reference to the views of the community, the councillors, and the housing crisis?'

'Is the General Manager stating that he has no control over the compliance division of Council?'

Matter of judgment

'This is a matter of judgment, like most enforcement decisions', said Professor Heilpern. 'Will we demand a demolition order on a community that has been living in peace and potential non-compliance like almost every other MO in the country?'

'Will we be the only Council in Australia ever to issue demolition orders on a whole community?'

'And that judgment ultimately rests with the General Manager, because he is at the top of the pyramid. In my view, the judgment to continue this cruel approach is deeply flawed. It is unprecedented and harmful.'

'Perhaps the elected representatives will reach the same conclusion. And if they do, then ultimately it is a question of whether or not they have confidence in the General Manager'.

Urgent investment is needed in the creative arts sector

► Continued from page 1
Rivers Executive Director, Jane Fuller, the first plank in rebuilding the sector is finding appropriate spaces.

'The key to revitalising the arts sector, based on our report's findings, is ensuring access to affordable and accessible creative spaces,' Ms Fuller told *The Echo* on the eve of the report's release.

'Artists and creatives need dedicated places to make, gather, and present their work across every local government area (LGA). These spaces should be multi-disciplinary, catering to a range of art forms and fostering collaboration'.

Collection of hubs

Ms Fuller envisages a collection of hubs across the region, that feature rehearsal spaces, theatres, galleries, studios, retail opportunities, and communal gathering areas.

'They would be designed to support artists at all stages of their careers, offering room for experimentation, professional development, and public

engagement,' Ms Fuller says.

'By integrating these elements, such a space would not only nurture artistic practice but also strengthen the creative economy, providing a sustainable foundation for the sector to grow and thrive.'

Of course, such spaces are unlikely to fund and build themselves.

Urgent investment

Based on the report's findings, Arts Northern Rivers is calling for urgent strategic investment from both the public and private sectors.

This includes funding that is directed specifically to support First Nations artists and Blak-owned cultural hubs.

There is also a pressing need for cultural tourism initiatives to remind the nation and indeed the world of the incredible and varied things we have to offer.

Grassroots audiences also need to be acknowledged as the bread and butter of arts engagement, with community programming needed to boost attendances and economic impact.

Residencies, regional

exchanges, and producer development will further strengthen career pathways.

Crucially, all of these intersecting ideas have come from local arts organisations themselves.

678 stakeholders

The study drew directly from 678 regional stakeholders, including 480 artists.

Of the respondents, 72 per cent identified primarily as artists or creative practitioners, while 34 per cent worked in roles such as marketing, production, or administration within creative businesses or cultural organisations.

There are a number of upcoming opportunities to learn more about the report and its findings.

These include Northern Rivers Zine Fair on Saturday, April 12, at the Kyogle Memorial Hall. Ms Fuller will be available in person to discuss the report's key findings.

The other is the *Who We Are* webinar, on Wednesday April 16. For more information, visit www.artsnorthernrivers.com.au.

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BayFM crew gathered last Thursday to celebrate 35 years of independent broadcasting in Byron Shire and beyond. Photo supplied

Nell Schofield

April 1, 1990. That was the date of BayFM's very first test broadcast. No joke!

Thirty five years on, around 60 legendary radio heads gathered last Thursday on the rooftop of the Marvell Hotel in Byron Bay to celebrate.

Nancy Jo Falcone from the *Multicultural Nation* show was there to raise a glass to the station. She was there right from the start with her show *The Bored Housewives Hour*. As was Brett Diemar who currently presents *Cafe D Mar*.

Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye was there to lend her support to BayFM, and

have a boogie to the tunes of resident DJs Si Clone and Gez. Sarah once hosted a late night show called *'The Master Plan'*, a reggae, dub, drum 'n bass slot with Timbo Parsonage and Trent Morris. Councillor Delta Kay also came to meet old friends and join in the celebrations.

Among the crowd was former Byron Shire councillor Cate Coorey, whose late partner Philip Shine was BayFM's first station manager.

Bunch of radicals

There was even a guest appearance by Murray Bartlett from *White Lotus*, who came with Brett Solomon, a featured guest on the weekly show *Roadtrip*.

The station's archive reveals that it was even further back in 1987 that a bunch of radicals decided that locals needed to hear the eclectic, eccentric electric voice of their community broadcast across Bundjalung airwaves.

BayFM, the entity, was established at the Community Centre that year, and there were a further three years of fundraising before the founders got their licence to broadcast full time in 1993.

More history is at bayfm.org/about. Here's to another 35 years broadcasting locally on 99.9 Mhz and streaming globally via bayfm.org.

■ Nell Schofield is BayFM President.

Bruns to get affordable housing

Hans Lovejoy

Fifteen new 'affordable' units are pegged for Brunswick Heads through the first round of the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF).

The HAFF was passed by federal Labor in November 2023, but was delayed by the Greens, who pushed for improvements to the law.

While Labor claims the delays were costly, the Greens say the extra money they negotiated was a better result.

Local MP Justine Elliot jumped at the recent data released by the HAFF, and said in a media release the 15 units would be 'for renters, for first home buyers, for women and children escaping domestic violence, older women, frontline workers, and Indigenous Australians'.

Mrs Elliot said, 'This is on top of the funding I delivered for 26 Safe Places for women and children fleeing domestic violence in Tweed Heads'.

'The Albanese Labor government is directly supporting more social and affordable housing nationwide than the Liberals and Nationals did in their entire nine years in office'.

Her office said there was

no further details around the project, and added that the location would not be disclosed owing to privacy reasons. No timeframe is associated with the project.

The Echo asked, 'What "affordable housing" metric will apply? And what is the expected cost?'

According to www.housingaustralia.gov.au, housing provider Momentum Collective has the contract for the units.

Greens reply

Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, said, 'I'm pleased to see results in our own backyard from the Greens' negotiations with Labor that ensured the housing fund would actually build homes'.

'But with over 2,000 people on our social housing waitlist, the highest homelessness rate in NSW, and no clear plan for flood-affected residents living in pod villages, this is just a drop in the ocean compared to the investment we need to see'.

'If elected to parliament, I'll fight for the massive investment in housing our community desperately needs and certainty for everyone still living in pod

villages with nowhere in our community to return to'.

Nationals reply

The office of Nationals candidate, Kimberly Hone, said her party [the Coalition] would abolish the HAFF if elected, and said Labor's high migrant intake ('1.8 million new migrants over five years') is adding to the housing pressure.

'We will alleviate pressure on the housing market by implementing a two-year ban on foreign investors and temporary residents purchasing existing homes and rebalance the migration program'.

'This would free up well over 100,000 homes in the next five years'.

One Nation reply

A spokesperson for One Nation candidate, Ian Mye, said they support the HAFF.

'However, One Nation has consistently been concerned about the high immigration levels into Australia where people come to Australia and compete for available housing and for employment'.

'This we believe keeps housing costs high and crimps wages', they said.

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Squatter case ends in Supreme Court

Photo & story Aslan Shand

The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) is taking homeless people in Mullumbimby and Lismore to the Supreme Court this Friday, April 11, to evict them from structurally sound houses they bought back as part of the post-2022 flood buyback program.

Chels Hood Withey from House You is one of the people facing eviction from a house at 122 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby, so that the house can be demolished.

The house at 122 Stuart Street was bought back owing to ‘special circumstances’ by the RA, despite the fact it was not flooded during 2022 flood.

The house was boarded up and left to go mouldy.

Chels and multiple supporters took off the boarding and cleaned the mould from the house, and turned it into a meeting place on Invasion Day this year.

‘We want this house to be turned over to public housing,’ Chels told *The Echo*.

‘We had proposed turning the house into a meeting hub to the RA, but instead they are taking us to the Supreme Court.

‘I have the support of 80 per cent of the neighbours in Stuart Street to occupy the house, and have been



Chels Hood Withey from House You in the Stuart Street home.

‘They’re evicting people with nowhere to go and destroying public housing. This isn’t recovery – it’s destruction.’

– Chels Hood Withey

talking to the previous owner about having the house gifted to me.’

It is estimated that the cost of taking the squatters to the Supreme Court is around \$400,000, which is targeting ten houses, one in Mullumbimby and the other in Lismore (see page 12).

‘It is unconscionable that the RA is evicting people from perfectly liveable

public houses only to demolish them,’ says Chels.

‘While the NSW government claims they aim to end homelessness, they’re evicting people with nowhere to go and destroying public housing. This isn’t recovery – it’s destruction.’

The NSW RA have said they cannot comment on the specific circumstances of this property owing to privacy reasons, and would not answer questions on why the house is scheduled to be demolished, or if they would consider putting the house back into the public housing sector.

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Lily-Grace's star continues to rise

Paul Bibby

Local teenage singer-songwriter, Lily-Grace Grant, is continuing her rapid and remarkable rise in the Australian country music scene, releasing her second single this month.

The 17-year-old former Byron High student already has a seriously impressive resume, having performed to great acclaim from the tender age of eight.

On April 11, she will once again step into the spotlight with the release of 'Damn Hard Working Man', a song celebrating the work ethic of rural Aussie men.

This definitely isn't a song someone put together on GarageBand.

Produced by award-winning country musician, Matt Fell, the song also features Nashville guitarist, Jeff King, and Australian multi-instrumentalist and award-winning producer, Josh Schuberth, on drums.

With her debut release, 'Wild Child', doing well on the Australian country music charts, there's every chance this one will also make a splash.

It promises to be another step in the already flourishing career of the Lennox Head resident.

At eight years old, she wrote her first song titled "Holding On", and played live-to-air for the first time on BayFM.



Lennox Head singer-songwriter Lily-Grace Grant. Photo Tony Mott

Then, at 10 years of age she sang 'Another Brick In The Wall' at Qudos Arena with Roger Waters of Pink Floyd in front of 20,000 fans.

She told *The Echo*, 'I get inspiration for my songs which I write on guitar, from everyday life'.

'Once I get an idea, the rest of the process happens pretty quickly'.

'My first single 'Wild Child', was for the girls, so I thought I'd mix it up

and write 'Damn Hard Working Man' for the fellas.'

Accolades

The accolades have continued to flow for the young musician, including at this year's Tamworth Country Music Festival where she came second in the 2TM Discovered Quest, and was named in the top five CCMA Junior Songwriter of The Year awards.

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Bruns biz say trade lower under parking meters

Paul Bibby

Small businesses in Brunswick Heads have seen income fall by up to 60 per cent since parking meters were introduced in the town, a recent meeting has heard.

The business owners were speaking at a specially-convened meeting with Byron Shire Council about how the meters have affected them since being installed in September last year.

Eighteen local business owners attended the event, including representatives from hospitality, retail, services, and health and beauty, with each given a few minutes to share their experience.

The owners spoke of income decreasing by 10 to 60 per cent.

'They also expressed their customer's views and mentioned how a lot of their business comes from areas just outside the Shire in particular Tweed Heads with the same postcode 2483,' said Peter Wotton, the president of the Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce.

'These customers are upset as they come regularly to Bruns and feel like locals. These customers are also the bread and butter for our small businesses.'

Mr Wotton said the representatives from Council were, 'for the most part empathetic and willing to listen and take away information from the meeting and local visitor and business survey outcomes'.

Representing Council at the meeting was Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, councillors Janet Swain, Jack Dods, and David Warth, General Manager Mark Arnold, and Director of Infrastructure Services, Phil Holloway.

Byron Council voted to install the meters in December 2023 following more than a decade of debate over the issue.

To support its argument, Council pointed to the evidence of a parking study which suggested that even during the low season, parking in the centre of Bruns was still reaching a 'trigger point' for intervention, namely 72 per cent occupancy.

The study found that parking was at capacity on the weekend at all times of the year, and it was predicted that parking demand in the centre of town would increase nearly 10 per cent over the following five years.

Council, under former mayor Michael Lyon, sought to sweeten the deal for locals by including a clause which entitled all locals to a free permit that exempts them from having to pay for parking in the town.

However, it has been reported by business owners and others that, with the introduction of the meters, there has been a significant drop in the number of people seeking to park in the town.

Empty parking spots

Many of the parking spots with meters are apparently empty for significant periods of time, leading some to question whether they are in fact providing significant revenue for Council – a key argument made by those who initially advocated for the scheme.

New sculpture space opens at Mullum Civic

'Negative Space in Sculpture' opened April 4 to a packed house at the newly-named Civic Art Space, located within the Mullum Civic Memorial Hall.

Co-organiser Suvira McDonald, pictured, says it is supported by the local business and arts community, and the monthly events are the initial stage of what he hopes will grow.

For more information visit www.3dayart.com.au.



Suvira McDonald at the opening. Photo Hans Lovejoy

Mayor calls for increase in Council grants from feds

Byron Shire Council is urging the federal government to take meaningful action on Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs), advocating for an increase from the current 0.5 per cent of tax revenue to one per cent.

Greens Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, says the call 'comes at a critical time, as local communities across the country are grappling not only with the ongoing housing crisis but also the fallout from it'.

'Local governments are facing increasing pressures to provide more services, while managing growing infrastructure demands'.

She says the proportion

of national taxes allocated to local government has shrunk over time, according to an SGS report (2024) into long-term trends in Australian local government financial sustainability.

'It's a disgrace that successive Australian governments have allowed the Federal Assistance Grants – the only untied source of annual funding for local governments – to flatline at such an embarrassingly low level for so long, while per capita expenditure from both state and Commonwealth governments has soared,' she said.

'Local governments are

now expected to manage more services than ever before, from roads and rubbish to libraries, parks, childcare, and even airports, cemeteries, and some health services.

Last resort for the most vulnerable-

'We are the safety net for our communities and the services of last resort for the most vulnerable,' Mayor Ndiaye said.

She added In addition to these existing challenges, there are extra burdens such as the impact of climate change.



Have your say on the draft Place Plan for New Brighton, South Golden Beach and Ocean Shores

The draft Place Plan for New Brighton, South Golden Beach and Ocean Shores is a guiding document that describes the vision for these communities, for the next 20 years.

It includes priority actions relating to movement, environment, open space, village feel, community and resilience.

Come and talk to us in person:

Ocean Shores Community Centre
Tuesday 15th April, 3:30 pm – 6pm.

South Golden Beach Hall
Wednesday 16th April, 3:30 pm – 6pm.

New Brighton Farmers Market
Tuesday 29th April, 8am – 11am.

More information

Have your say on this draft via Council's website until 18 May:

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/nso-place-plan



02 6626 7000 • www.byron.nsw.gov.au

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF THE BYRON SHIRE

Traffic changes in Tyagarah

Wednesday 16th April to Monday 21st April 2025



After working closely with Byron Shire Council and the RMS, our consultants have formulated a traffic management plan to manage and minimise potential traffic impact in proximity to the Bluesfest site at Tanner Lane, Tyagarah. We wish to inform you that the following changes will take place from Wednesday, 16th April to Monday 21st April 2025.

FESTIVAL TIMES

THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2025: GATES OPEN 2:00 PM - CLOSE MIDNIGHT

FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2025 - SUNDAY 20TH APRIL 2025: GATES OPEN 11:00 AM - CLOSE MIDNIGHT

TRAFFIC

- The Mullumbimby off ramp at Tyagarah will be closed to southbound highway traffic.
- South bound festival traffic will be directed to turn into the Festival off ramp.**
- North bound festival traffic will enter the site via the indicated off ramp.
- These measures are designed to minimise traffic impact, however, please be prepared for possible delays.
- Grays Lane access to the motorway will remain shut. Patrons/Grays Lane residents wishing to depart southbound on the Pacific Highway, will use the main Gulgan Road intersection at the Shell service station. During peak festival departure times, from 9pm nightly, Grays Lane intersection will be open for southbound departures from the festival/Grays Lane, to join the highway at the Grays Lane intersection. Access to Grays Lane from the Pacific Highway will remain closed at all times.

PARKING

- The festival car parks, in the north and south of the site are accessible from Tanner Lane and Yarun Road, this will be open for day patrons. Temporary "No Stopping" signs will be installed in Tanner Lane, Yarun Road, and Foxs Lane and on parts of Gulgan Road and Grays Lane.
- Please note, pre-paid parking will cost \$25 per single day.
- 3-day parking is \$60 plus fees. 4-day parking is \$80 plus fees.
- Tickets are available to purchase via www.bluesfest.com.au/tickets.
- To avoid lengthy delays pre-book your parking NOW online as there will be LIMITED facility to purchase on site.
- Please **DO NOT** park on the local road network around the Tyagarah Tea Tree Farm, which is the Bluesfest site.
- Council parking rangers will be on patrol throughout the weekend.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF AREA

- There will be a pick-up and drop-off area for guests at the south gate entrance. Please call the Bluesfest Hotline (02) 6639 9800 for clarification with respect to these arrangements. Please note that it is free to use this area.

DISABLED PARKING

- There is an area set aside for disabled parking.

SHUTTLE BUSES

- Shuttle buses will run every 40-60 minutes (subject to traffic) from Byron Bay Bus Exchange (Butler Street). There will also be shuttle bus services from surrounding towns. The bus timetable is now available on the Bluesfest website.

CAMPING

- Camping is **not allowed** in the festival day parking area or on local beaches, parks, or roadsides. Camping is only allowed in official campgrounds. People camping in banned areas will be fined.

BLUESFEST HOTLINE: (02) 6639 9800

EMERGENCY HOTLINE: 0402 495 806

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience and co-operation.

One Nation candidate announced

Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate for the May 3 election is local born and raised Bundjalung Indigenous man, Ian Mye.

One Nation said in a media release, 'Ian is standing for the seat of Richmond because he is convinced major party politicians and bureaucrats are too comfortable, and are out of touch with ordinary Australians who are really struggling with housing, living costs and health care'.

'He is convinced the minor parties such as One Nation are more empathetic and sincere in addressing the issues in modern Australia.'

'Ian's priorities are to initiate genuine efforts to alleviate future floods as he believes lessons have not been learnt and governments have moved on



Ian Mye. Photo supplied

from recent disasters.

'He is also concerned with problems facing youth regarding training, employment, housing and offering alternatives to crime.'

'He is passionate about our region becoming a centre for excellence in art, culture and sport as well as fostering community-based caring for Country from an Indigenous point of view.'

Neglected region

'He is concerned that our region has been neglected for too long, where governments want the revenue from our area, but don't want to provide much needed services such as public transport and access to quality health care.'

'Ian is concerned major parties, and governments in general, are in danger of being captured by corporate and vested interests. He feels current checks and balances are being sidelined.'

'Ian was seriously injured in a road accident while travelling to school at the age of five and lost his left arm.'

'That has not stopped him from leading a rewarding life and career in the transport industry as well as succeeding in sport and community'.

Small banks join to fight for regional branches

Summerland Bank say they have joined a collective of 19 regional banks to fight for a better deal to meet the increasing costs of running their business for people 'who need access to services, such as cash handling and trained assistance technology, scams and fraud'.

Summerland Bank CEO,

John Williams, says, 'Bank branches provide a critical function for people living in regional and rural Australia'.

'Regional bank branches cost around \$1.2 million a year each to run and are currently provided with no support from big banks who profit most from the financial system in Australia'.

'The big banks have shut more than 800 regional branches since 2017, as they push Australians toward cheaper digital services that are inadequate and unreliable replacements in the regions, particularly during regular outages and extreme weather events,' Williams said.

Elders' Hub talk on avoiding dementia

The next Elders' Hub meeting will be Saturday, April 12, in the bamboo yurt at the Gordon Street Permaculture Gardens in Mullumbimby.

Co-organiser Anjali Walsh told *The Echo* the theme will

be 'avoiding dementia'.

April 12 from 9.30am

She says, 'It will be presented by Dr Liz Elliot and Dr Jack Travis, and they will be sharing exercises, herbs, therapies and nutrition'.

'Our gates open at 9.30am, and the session begins at 10am.'

'This is likely to be very well attended, as people who have been filling in our survey are most interested in keeping their brains intact!'

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News from across the North Coast online ► www.echo.net.au

Teenage girl missing from Lismore

Police are asking the public for help finding a teenage girl missing from Lismore.

Multiple voices call for wetland restoration

There have been multiple fish kills across the Northern Rivers following Tropical Cyclone Alfred. They were first reported in the Richmond River and are now occurring in the Clarence and Macleay Rivers.

Wendy Backhous runs for Labor in Page

Wendy Backhous, a former health worker and local SES volunteer, has announced that she's running for Labor.

Broadwater Public School officially reopens

Broadwater Public School students, teachers and parents today celebrated the return to their rebuilt school with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the start of a new chapter for the community.

Nearly \$100K for Cabarita Beach Surf Life Saving Club

The Tweed Shire Council has been awarded nearly \$100,000 to fit out a Lifesaving Emergency Response Control Operations Room at the Cabarita Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

Tweed Shire Council wants YOU for Northern Regional Planning Panel

Tweed Shire Council is calling for expressions of interest from experienced professionals to join the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) as Council-appointed members.

www.echo.net.au

Demolition rather than relocation of Lismore's 'Big Scrub' homes

Aslan Shand

The Northern Rivers community have raised the alarm over the shift from relocation to demolition by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA).

Big Scrub homes in Lismore, constructed from Big Scrub rainforest hardwoods, milled from forests that once spanned 75,000 hectares in the Northern Rivers, are currently being prepared for demolition. This is despite the government having originally promised that these homes would be relocated, an expression of interest (EOI) program for people to buy them, and the option for former home owners to gift the homes (to then be relocated) to someone of their choosing.

'50 homes have already been demolished under the Resilient Homes Program (RHP),' said House You representative Chels Hood Whitey.

'70 homes slated for demolition with 62 scheduled for completion before mid-year 2025, as stated by Kristie Clarke from the NSW Reconstruction Authority on ABC North Coast Radio (April 2, 2025).

'This brings the total to 120 homes currently marked for demolition, many of which are structurally sound and viable for relocation. Homes on Uralba, Junction, Baillie, Union, Lake, Pine, and Frank Streets in Lismore are slated for demolition – and a home on Stuart Street in Mullumbimby that didn't even flood.'

Structurally sound

'Recent engineering assessments confirm that many homes slated for demolition are structurally sound and suitable for relocation. The Johns Lyng Group report

for a Union Street property explicitly states: "The property is NOT structurally compromised" and "does NOT require demolition." This finding was further confirmed by Matrix Thornton Consulting Engineers who certified the property as "safe to be re-occupied".

Despite these professional assessments, the NSW RA continues to push forward with demolition plans rather than implementing relocation solutions.

'The RA previously committed to reuse those houses,' explained Lismore resident and Reclaim Our Recovery (ROR) representative Miriam Torzillo.

'Originally the message from the RA when they came to deliver the eviction notices to Pine Street was that these houses were needed for the EOI program they were undertaking.

'The truth is people have been given buybacks but only a small number of people have been able to relocate their houses.

'We want to see the state government add these houses to the EOI list, if that still exists, and negotiate with the current tenants a reasonable timeline to vacate. And for those people who are there because they have been in housing stress, to be provided with genuine housing alternatives.'

Local resident and Pine Street neighbour to the Lismore squatters, Dr Aidan Ricketts, told *The Echo* that 'there is homelessness all over the Northern Rivers and squatters all over Lismore. The reason that such a loud bullying campaign was launched against Pine Street is because this group of people didn't hide, presented a positive face, and were

proud of what they were doing. This really enraged the bullies.

'One of the cruellest things society expects of homeless people is that they remain invisible, ashamed, and that they are silent.

'What is unfortunate is the state government has become one of the bullies with these threats of demolition.

'Legally speaking the dispute between the state government and squatters is a dispute between an owner and an occupier. And if they want to resolve it the Supreme Court is the appropriate place to resolve it.

'I think what we are seeing is that the RA is coming to the conclusion that it is too big a project to try and responsibly relocate and recycle the Big Scrub houses. And so there is a policy pivot in favour of large-scale demolition and the government is simply using the squatters as an excuse and a scapegoat. The squatters have been wonderful neighbours,' he said.

NSW RA responds

'The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) is continuing to help people move off the floodplain and strengthen their homes against the impacts of future disasters,' said a spokesperson for the NSW RA.

'We want to relocate bought-back homes as much as possible, however, some have had to be demolished because they were structurally unsound, severely dilapidated, in high risk areas or were unsafe to live in because of the presence of asbestos.'

■ Read full story in *The Echo Online*: www.echo.net.au.

NSW RA fails to agree to house relocations – Lismore



A house scheduled for demolition at 29 Junction Street, Lismore. Locals say it should be relocated. Photo supplied

Mia Armitage

Land at Goonellabah proposed for rezoning to accommodate housing is to be considered at this week's Lismore City Council meeting but hopes for house relocations from flood areas appear reduced.

Accompanying staff notes to Tuesday's meeting's agenda show a 'reference to enabling house relocations' has been removed from the Development Control Plan (DCP) for a rezoning proposal for 60 hectares of rural land at 1055 and 1055A Bruxner Highway.

A suggestion for the new estate, proposed to accommodate up to 400 new dwellings, to be called Harmony Estate has also been removed.

The move to remove reference to enabling house relocations has happened after community consultation but staff say it's in response to a lack of action from the NSW RA.

'Staff will still work to enable house relocations wherever possible,' the notes read, 'this change has been made only because the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) have not formally entered any agreements'.

No Harmony Estate

Staff said two other names were suggested for the estate during community consultation: Rainbow Place and Chrysalis.

But 'neither of these names, nor Harmony Estate, are preferred,' staff said.

'Rather, staff recommend waiting until a suitable name is put forward by the applicant at DA stage.'

Staff said they received 83 unique submissions during the community consultation period, 69 via an online survey on Council's Your Say section of its website and 14 via a standard 'freeform' letter or email, excluding duplicates.

Results showed an even split in feelings towards the proposal: 43 per cent were unhappy or very unhappy, another 43 per cent were very happy or happy and 13% of respondents had a neutral feeling towards the proposal.

Staff summed up the results as showing a 'general consensus and support for residential uses'.

'There was a mix of both support and concern for affordable/ social housing,' they noted.

Other requests included resident-led housing or cohousing; requests for the whole site to be used for housing rather than the current proposed mixed-use; and for the residential and industrial zonings to be reversed so that the industrial zone is in the north and the residential in the south.

■ Read full story in *The Echo Online*: www.echo.net.au

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Tweed growth and housing strategy passes on mayor's casting vote

Aslan Shand

Tweed Shire councillors adopted the Growth Management and Housing Strategy (GMHS) last Thursday on the casting vote of Mayor, Chris Cherry (Independent).

A motion for detached, dual occupancy on lots of at least ten hectares, was put forward by Nationals councillor Kimberly Hone, who focused on how tough it was for farmers in the region; however it lapsed as there was no seconder.

The mayor's alternate motion, that covered numerous changes to the GMHS, was put forward, seconded by Independent Deputy Mayor, Meridith Dennis.

Speaking to the motion Mayor Cherry said, 'the GMHS is the most important document that our Council will deal with in this term. Certainly it's the most important document, I believe, that our Council has dealt with in my whole time on Council,' she said.

With around 640 submissions the mayor said, 'the community have really come back very, very strongly on

what they want to see'.

'This amendment contains a lot of changes and it does delete [and modify] quite a number of options that were put forward. I think it's really important that the community understand how much their feedback has been taken on board in doing this,' she said.

Cr Cherry pointed out that the alternate motion allowed secondary dwellings on lots of ten acres and above for around 30 per cent of rural lots, but that the details of under what circumstances they would be allowed would be decided when the Council got to the 'strategy' part of the GMHS.

Once a piece of land is included in a strategy that highlights it for potential alternative development options that land becomes more valuable due to the potential for future development, and is hard to remove from the strategy.

That land gains 'a certain weight... it has a certain consideration that other proposals don't have,' explained Cr Cherry.

18,226 lots for future growth

Cr Cherry pointed out that the Tweed Shire has around '18,226 lots already identified for future growth'.

Councillor Dr Nola Firth raised concerns over the inclusion of secondary dwellings in rural areas.

'We know that the Sustainability and Environment Department have spoken against it. It's in the report,' she said.

'We know that approximately 50 per cent of landowners don't live on their rural properties... and there's going to be no way we can stop short-term accommodation happening there,' she said.

With Labor councillor Reece Byrnes absent, the vote was tied three all with Crs Cherry, Dennis, and Rhianon Brinsmead in favour and Crs Firth, Hone, and James Owen against. The casting vote of Mayor Cherry saw the GMHS adopted.

■ Read full story in *The Echo* Online: www.echo.net.au

Action needed after fish kills

Aslan Shand

The sad health of the Richmond River was highlighted by a series of fish kills following Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

The fish kills were first reported in the Richmond River and then in the Clarence and Macleay Rivers. This has led to calls to rehabilitate wetlands, use sustainable farming practices, facilitate cultural leadership, and a community forum at Ballina RSL on April 3.

'The community info session went really well. There was a strong turnout and clear passion in the room for improving the health of the Richmond River,' Ray Klerck, from OzFish and Richmond River Chapter President, told *The Echo*.

'Locals are understandably concerned about the recent fish kills, and we're committed to turning that concern into meaningful action.'

OzFish are encouraging people to join the OzFish Richmond River Chapter as members who receive emails, and as followers across their social media.

They are currently looking at a range of actions



Dead fish beside Richmond River following Cyclone Alfred. Photo David Lowe

including the preparation of a petition.

The need to rehabilitate and expand the wetlands around local rivers, such as the Tuckean Nature Reserve, to a more natural hydrological regime are key actions that are being promoted.

Purchasing or leasing key farmland around wetlands that could be transitioned into fish-friendly habitat is another potential action.

'Land that's no longer viable for traditional farming could be transitioned into fish-friendly habitat; this could be critical for improving water quality and restoring the fishery,' said Mr Klerck.

'We're exploring ways for philanthropic individuals or organisations to support these efforts. Anyone interested can contact OzFish

directly for more information about how to do this.

'The message here is simple: we can pay farmers for outcomes that support fish and cleaner water and, in doing so, create long-term benefits for the entire community.'

'Meanwhile, OzFish will continue tackling the Richmond River's water quality issues from all sides, through riparian planting, floodplain resilience, oyster reef restoration, pesticide management, and more. We're working closely with the Ballina Fishermen's Co-op and every other stakeholder to rebuild a sustainable, thriving fishery that feeds our local population, supports tourism, and brings life back to our river.'

For more information go to www.ozfish.org.au.



Do you have a community or creative project Council could support?

Community Initiatives and Creative Public Spaces Grants are open - apply now!

What's on offer?

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Creative Public Spaces

Grants of up to \$5,000 for creative activations and art projects in public spaces.

Applications are open now and close on 16 May 2025.

More information

More information, eligibility details and the application forms are available from Council's website.

■ www.byron.nsw.gov.au/grants
■ 02 6626 7000



Image: Hoppers curated by Kelly O'Meara, Brunswick Nature Sculpture Walk 2024; Photo credit - Natalie Grono

www.byron.nsw.gov.au



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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #44 • April 9, 2025

Destroying houses during a housing crisis is so 2025

Back in 1981, the NSW Department of Environment and Planning published *Low Cost Country Home Building*.

At 120 pages, it's a comprehensive handbook for low cost construction and useful information around rural living.

The NSW government at the time put faith in people and seemed to want to help residents be self-sufficient and off grid.

The '80s was a much simpler time, before governments destroyed the housing market for the middle to lower class, and in general, became mean.

Where is the spotlight?

But it's now 2025, and at least election time puts the politicians and the bureaucrats under a spotlight.

Federal candidates and the incumbent Justine Elliot (Labor) are all wanting our vote on May 3.

Yet the optics this week have not been great for either (state) Labor or the Greens (locally).

As for Labor, they oversee The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA).

As their recent annual report shows, RA is a bloated government agency with lots of top earning public servants who haven't achieved much.

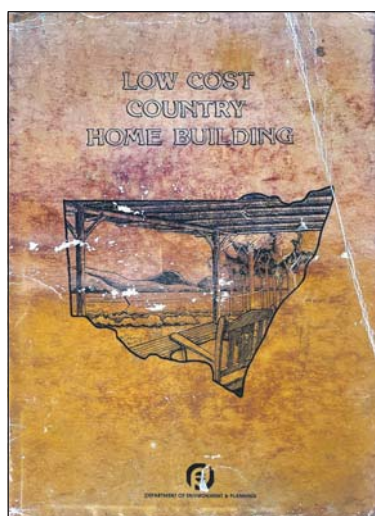
In an attempt to restore some dignity, respected local Labor Lismore MP Janelle Saffin was recently appointed NSW Minister for Recovery.

How is that going?

This week, RA excavators rolled into Lismore and began demolishing flood-affected houses. And there are court cases now underway to evict squatters (see page 8).

The RA are also booting flood-impacted people from four pods with a 'plan' being developed on the fly.

Over in the local Greens HQ, there are ongoing conflicting messaging regarding their commitment to how they treat the most vulnerable in the



The front cover of the NSW Department of Environment and Planning's *Low Cost Country Home Building*, published in 1981

community (see page 1).

Greens mayor Sarah Ndiaye seems to think demolition orders are an appropriate response to a community of long-term residents unable to reply to compliance in a timely manner.

Greens Cr Elia Hauge, on the other hand, is seeking to pause action via a councillor motion.

And while this mixed messaging is happening, the Greens mayor continues to make a lot of noises around providing 'ongoing emergency housing' (see page 3).

Perhaps when she oversees the demolition of the homes of long-term locals in Main Arm who are unable to comply with inflexible planning laws and exorbitant DA costs they can't afford, she could move them to the pod villages?

The theme here is that when politicians put the interests of bureaucrats above the public, it is done at their own peril – and their party's reputation can be impacted.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

The cost of living with climate change

Can we live on our planet without destroying it? This is the real cost-of-living question most politicians run from.

Not to downplay that people are doing it tough right now, but unless we base our governance on the fact that we are but one species living on a planet that has boundaries, and find some way of equitably sharing its resources, most of us are doomed to a cost-of-living crisis for the foreseeable future.

The Earth is now well outside the safe operating space for humanity, and millions of other species. Six of the nine planetary boundary processes for maintaining the stability and resilience of the Earth system are significantly overshot.

Indigenous cultures the world over have long warned of the lack of stewardship of the Earth and its resources, and the urgent need for a Seventh Generation model to underpin planning and decision-making.

The state of the Earth underpins the state of the nation. Our economies are ultimately subservient to this simple, yet profound reality both in abundance and scarcity. Even new frontiers like AI use vast quantities of Earth's fresh water and energy.

That we've come to somehow see ourselves as separate from this interdependence is the great delusion of our times. It keeps leaders tinkering at the edges with wrong-headed policies designed for the short term, rather than resolving the structural woes we face.

We are eight billion people, with the richest one per cent of the world's population producing 50 times more greenhouse gases than the four billion people in the bottom 50 percent. The richest ten per cent of the global population owns a vast majority of the world's wealth, leaving the poorest half with a tiny fraction.

This deepening inequality is in our faces every day. We are living its consequences with financial stress, poverty, housing crises, social instability, and worsening environmental crises, all of which hit the poorest hardest.



'As well as dealing with environmental crises, there is a need for major reform of the taxation system.'

Jo Immig

Cost of living and the climate crisis

The three environmental crises – climate chaos, biodiversity loss and pollution, are interconnected. Unless real efforts are made to turn them around, the government's ability to address the cost-of-living crisis into the future will diminish.

According to a recent report from the Australia Institute on the nexus of the cost-of-living and climate crises, the rising cost of insurance, food and energy collectively account for more than a fifth of the consumer price inflation Australia has experienced since 2022.

Insurance premiums have soared because of the increase in natural disasters caused by climate change.

Food prices have risen owing to climate-related disruptions, wiping out harvests and causing mass losses of livestock. This is evident even at our local farmers' markets with missing stall holders and less produce from recent climate-fuelled weather events.

Globally, the cost of coffee will increase because the price of beans has hit record highs as growers struggle with adverse weather events in Brazil and Vietnam. Weather disruptions in the West African cocoa growing regions, supplying 70 per cent of the global market, have dramatically impacted the crop. Prices have risen by 400 per cent. Two million smallholder farms depend on cocoa as their sole source of income.

International olive oil prices have skyrocketed owing to climate-linked droughts in Europe, particularly Spain, the world's largest olive oil producer. The steep rise in the cost of olive oil has increased food oil prices in Australia, rising 50 per cent since 2021.

In relation to energy, the Australia Institute finds that by uncertainty

and under-investment in the transition to renewables, as well as tying ourselves to international pricing mechanisms by exporting fossil fuels, we have pushed up energy prices for Australians.

Tax the billionaires

Despite the argy-bargy from politicians in election mode, a modest tax cut here or a short-term petrol excise cut there, won't address the structural problems embedded in the cost-of-living crisis.

As well as dealing with environmental crises, there is a need for major reform of the taxation system. Do billionaires pay their fair share of tax? No. As of 2025, Australia has 170 billionaires, a record number.

If the world's 3,000 'ultra-high-net-worth individuals' paid a minimum two per cent tax on their wealth, global tax revenues would be up to \$380 billion higher. Extending the tax to centimillionaires would raise another \$100-140 billion, according to a blueprint by Gabriel Zucman, Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics.

Instead, we get Elon Musk, the 'richest man on Earth', wielding a bejewelled chainsaw and sending young unqualified men into buildings to fell swathes of working people, ransacking private data, deleting entire departments and removing people's safety nets, without one iota of compassion. Trump's 'liberation day' global tariffs are next level craziness and may well tank the global economy.

From those ashes we'll need to build something more sustainable and equitable, based on the realities of planet Earth. Vote wisely.

■ Jo Immig is a former NSW government advisor and Coordinator of the National Toxics Network. She's currently a freelance writer and researcher.



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

Disclaimer: The Echo is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of advertisers, letter writers, and opinion writers are not necessarily those of the owners or staff of this publication.

'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' – Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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Byron Council abandons net zero

Byron Council is one of the Shire's biggest greenhouse emitters, additionally with 45 per cent of its millions invested in fossil fuel investing institutions.

At the 27/03/25 meeting Byron Shire councillors formally abandoned Council's previous commitment to be net zero by 2025. Instead, they adopted an 'aspirational' net zero greenhouse gas pathway for reductions sometime into the future.

They adopted the incoherent staff report, that double-dipped on counting Council's emission reductions, and which incorrectly claimed no commercial solutions for wastewater and landfill emissions. They adopted the report's 'new pathways' next steps – 'first an internal review, then a consultant, then look at the consultant's report, then get modelling, then look at modelling to inform proposed projects, then have proposed projects workshops, then assess feedback on the workshops, then develop strategy from the workshops, then develop a plan based on the workshops strategy, then get community consultation on the strategy, and then consider community feedback on the strategy', upon which Council will then consider whether to do anything.

Greens Cr Lowe didn't attend, the Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye stepped out, Cr Dods chaired, and all remaining councillors voted for this. Unfortunately, Byron Bay, and Council's proposed gas-fired electricity plant, may be under the ocean by then.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

National treasures

A very big thank you to Delvene Delaney for her wonderful film *Love of an Icon* – a tribute to John Cornell and Paul Hogan and many others in the television and film industry in Australia.

I haven't been in a theatre where people applauded at the end in a long time. As one old bloke said to me proudly as we exited, 'that's what



Cartoon by Ewan Willis

we're about, isn't it?

Another big thank you to our local treasure Mandy Nolan for all her years of teaching comedy, and keeping us the funniest shire in Australia. I did her course three times and when a friend recently asked, 'how did your Virgin Suicide go?' I answered: 'the first time getting up was the scariest thing I've ever done. My version of jumping out of an airplane'. Thank God Mandy was always there as our parachute if needed.

Philip Byrt
Tyagarah

Ballina fish kill

Much has been written about the recent fish kill in the Richmond River, the possible causes and solutions.

That we are still having these discussions, many years after the detailed reports on the shocking health of the river were published, is extremely disappointing.

Such an ad hoc approach is not going to deliver the comprehensive and concerted effort required to deal with all of the river's woes – massive silt loadings, farm chemicals, fertilisers, urban pollution – not just 'black water'.

This approach will not improve the overall water quality, but also creates opportunity for some of the more cynical and selfish stakeholder groups to call for

specific actions that benefit them, such as the opening of the Tuckombil Canal and/or the construction of a further such canal at Boundary Creek, near Broadwater – under the guise of fixing the problem.

If I lived at Evans Head I wouldn't want more of their putrid water but less, and preferably none at all.

The Australian government has established, and published, a *Water Quality Management Framework* based on ten steps that provides a structured approach to improving water quality by involving water quality managers and the community.

To be successful, it is critical that there is a good scientific understanding of the impact of human activities on our river, that our community has a collective vision for a healthy river, and the desire for it to be restored. It is my belief that we have this.

What is lacking is the political and collective will to take this matter seriously and dedicate the resources required to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to actually deal with the causes and restore the health of our river.

My experience suggests that this will only happen if the state and federal governments step in and make it happen – as they did for the Great Barrier Reef.

Perhaps we should make this an election issue for our region.

Ian McBean
Ballina

Towards runaway

The risk of a runaway climate is a concern among scientists. Positive feedback loops in the Earth's climate system amplify warming to the point where it becomes self-sustaining and irreversible. The risk of severe and cascading climate tipping points is very real.

Important key risks are: The loss of Arctic ice, reducing the reflection of sunlight, and thawing permafrost releasing methane, and warming oceans releasing stored CO₂.

Critical thresholds exist for the Amazon Rainforest and the Greenland ice sheet, where small changes can lead to irreversible shifts.

Continued high production of more CO₂, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions
► Continued on next page

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Letters to the Editor

■ Send to Letters Editor Aslan Shand, fax: 6684 1719 email: editor@echo.net.au Deadline: Noon, Friday. Letters longer than 200 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

■ The Echo is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of letter writers are their own and don't represent the owners or staff of this publication.

ATTENTION ALL LETTER WRITERS

In order to run more letters on different topics, from this week we are only going to publish the first 200 words of your letters in print. Readers will be able to read them in full (if a reasonable length) in The Echo online: www.echo.net.au/letters.

are exacerbating warming and increasing the likelihood of triggering feedback loops.

Degraded ecosystems are absorbing less CO₂, further accelerating warming.

Deforestation, fossil fuel use, and industrial agriculture contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

The urgency to remove these risks is clear. Passing critical temperature thresholds could lead to catastrophic and irreversible changes. Just taking political action is not enough. Just taking personal action is not enough. Just whimpering in a corner is not enough. Just ignoring is not enough.

All of us must take action on all fronts and all places... that might be enough.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Bikies wedge politics

It's disappointing to see the anti-Green bikies from Ocean Shores trying to resuscitate a dead horse! Pushing our naive, new councillors into the quagmire of a bike path in our precious, fragile nature reserves during the federal election campaign. The issue also got a run during the recent Council elections.

Wedge politics at its most blatant from the same blokes who (over) reacted

vehemently to any criticism of Mayor Michael Lyon and attacked train supporters viciously and relentlessly during that ugly tussle (see Facebook).

The aim is to make the Greens look mean and begrudging because they won't give people access through the nature reserves. Yet the National Parks & Wildlife Service refused the plan because it impacts on threatened species and ecological communities. Fencing was erected and paths closed to keep the public and their pets out of these reserves which are specifically designated for nature.

The Brunswick Heads community fought to protect this riverside land during the Ocean Shores subdivision in the 1960s. My dear neighbour, Ruth Fox was involved in the Flora and Fauna Association that championed the creation of the nature reserves. She must be fuming in her grave!

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**

www.echo.net.au/letters.

Michele Grant
Ocean Shores

Len Hend

To my friends, thank you for your friendship and genuine concern for my wellbeing,

something I've felt over the years, especially since leaving Chiang Mai to visit Mullumbimby these past few weeks.

Yes, Mullum's still a special place, though we can't call it a hideout anymore.

'You can't stop progress'. No – but you can steer it – if you want.

An obvious ageing population with nowhere to sit, rest, or chat on their walk to town? Let's not talk about that – tourists need seats – carry on with the meeting.

I toss date palm seeds and pawpaw seeds along the road to town, especially in the wet season. You'll end up in jail for that – carry on with the meeting.

For those who don't know, some years ago, life became a nightmare for me when they decided it was time for a massive tumour to be cut from my brain. I survived, thanks to everyone who guided me through it. I asked the surgeon to wind back my clock while they were in there. You can go to jail for that too, carry on with the meeting.

My place on Mount Chincogan's slopes belongs to my son Tim now. He's made all the renovations and improvements it needed. You might still spot my name at the gate

– let's say it's there to deter carpetbaggers – carry on with the meeting. Cheers.

Len Hend Esq.
Thailand

Alfred: 'believers rule'

Thanks to April (*Echo*, April 2) for her 'inspiring artwork' showing the huge 'shaman lady' treating little cyclone Alfred like a puppet on a string. Onya April.

In this age of the internet and global TV news, people all over the world knew of the unusual cyclone Alfred. The call went out to lightworkers to help 'steer the cyclone' away from land, with corresponding results as verified by satellite images and meteorological reports of Alfred's 'erratic behaviour'.

The feedback I received ranging from: 'I don't believe in all that stuff' to, 'Yes, I found it so easy to work on Alfred,' was surprising. Many hearts make light work!

So are we alone or all one? In this age of Aquarius, Mayan prophecy, Kali Yuga, Second Coming, etc. we are coming to a fulcrum point of consciousness. Apparently we have been here many times before, with cultural/climatic mass extinction events, i.e. Atlantis, Lemuria, the Great Flood, etc.

Today we have MAD, mutually assured destruction and the climate emergency. As stated last week in *The Echo* 'thought creates your world,' i.e. INTENTION + EMOTION X C = MANIFESTATION. Believing is seeing. Are we victims or creators? Believers rule.

Noah Yamore
Mullumbimby

Make them pay

Finally our electorate has the power to send a powerful voice to Canberra, one that will say the things career politicians never do.

It is time that those who profited the most from creating this unstable climate we are all experiencing, paid their share and helped pay for the relocation of infrastructure, the safeguarding of our assets, and building the resilience of our communities.

This is an enormous task, and it's unfair that individuals and those who can least afford it often have to foot the bill in higher taxes, insurance, and rates.

Make the billionaires pay, end corporate handouts, a thriving planet for all, send Mandy to Canberra!

Yuki Lindley
Tweed Heads

A future of choice

A friend recently sent me this question from Joanna Macy. Joanna is a respected voice in movements for peace, justice, and ecology.

For me the simplicity of her words cut through the confusion and selfish manipulation we experience on a daily basis and go to the heart of how we as humanity choose our future. Here is what she has to say: 'We will probably not know in our lifetimes whether we are serving as deathbed attendants to a dying world or as midwives to the next stage of human evolution. We simply don't know. So, what is it going to be? With nothing to lose, what could hold us back from being the most courageous, the most innovative, the most warmhearted version of ourselves we can possibly be?' – Joanna Macy.

Ken Golding
Mullumbimby

Democracy?

On 14 October, 2023 we had a referendum where we were asked if a section of our population should have a special and exclusive privilege to the parliament and the executive government. Australia said 'No'!

► **Continued on page 18**

— Billi Lids — Early Learning

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No decriminalisation – small steps on drug reform

Aslan Shand

The 2024 NSW Drug Summit ended four months ago, and its report has finally been made public. It did not recommend decriminalising drug use or possession for personal use. Its 56 recommendations included a medicinal defence for driving while using cannabis, and a call for an end to the use of drug detection dogs and strip searches at music festivals.

Call for quick action

‘These summit findings are really an evolution not a revolution,’ CEO of the Ted Noffs Foundation, Matt Noff, told *The Echo*.

‘Things like this happen at a snail’s pace. Not everyone is happy with that but I personally think that snail-pace is better than no pace at all.’

Recommendation 10 proposes that the NSW government ‘legislate a defence for people using medically prescribed cannabis who are driving’ including an ‘option for police at the roadside or a court to assess the defence’.

MLC Jeremy Buckingham from Legalise Cannabis NSW said, ‘this is about fairness, science, and good policy. You can legally be prescribed opioids, benzodiazepines, or antidepressants and still drive – so long as you’re not impaired. Medicinal cannabis patients deserve the same right’.

Former magistrate and Dean of Law at Southern Cross University, David Heilpern, said he was in a ‘state of animated hope regarding the recommendation from the drug summit, and I believe it represents a real breakthrough. It also reflects five years of hard work by cannabis activists and patients’ rights groups.’

‘Of course it is still a recommendation, and this government has not shown a huge degree of spinal fortitude. However, there are some positive signs.

‘First, the report is bipartisan – it was authored by the two conveners from the major parties, and neither is known for preconceptions or a law reform approach previously. Second, the opposition has not come out against this recommendation as one would expect. I think this is likely because THC prescriptions are now



Cate Faehrmann, NSW Greens MP, being drug tested by a police officer without gloves on her way to the Nimbin Mardi Grass in 2021. Photo supplied

in excess of one million, and they are from all walks of life and political persuasions. The National Party has been vocal in support of patients’ rights, and this is unsurprising since loss of licence in rural and regional areas is so much more drastic. Third, the recommendation is for a state-wide, one-year trial, and the legislation would no doubt have a sunset clause – that is very palatable,’ Heilpern explained.

‘The only surprise feature is the recommendation for the police to be able to apply the defence by discretion at the roadside. This is eminently sensible, and happens in other jurisdictions. Of course, caution is needed, because we don’t want to see police discretion exercised in a way that discriminates against some sections of society.’

Professor Nicholas Lintzeris from the South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) and University of Sydney told *The Echo* that, ‘Recommendation 10 is a sensible and overdue reform. It is time to make that happen ASAP.’

Drug reform

In 2020 the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug ‘Ice’ recommended ‘that the government needs to introduce a system of decriminalisation if it is going to stop drug deaths in New South Wales’ but this was rejected by the NSW government in late 2022.

Stronger drug reform initiatives were raised at the drug summit but were not discussed in the report.

‘The report does not address issues of broader cannabis, or other drug, reform which will leave many people disappointed,’ said Professor Lintzeris.

‘This issue was certainly identified as a key policy issue in written submissions and at the Sydney forum I attended, but is curiously absent from the report.

‘The authors appear to have instead argued for more court diversion programs and increased crack-down on illicit drug supply (recommendation 12.9). There has been neither revolution nor evolution on this topic.’

Cate Faehrmann, Greens MP and drug law reform and harm reduction spokesperson agrees, saying that the report does

not go far enough and fails to respond to expert opinion on necessary drug reform to save lives.

‘The number one priority for the majority of attendees to reduce drug harm was to remove criminal penalties for drug use and possession. It’s extremely disappointing that this was not a recommendation. It’s clear that recommendations sought from a majority of stakeholders at the drug summit have been softened to make them politically palatable for a risk-averse premier.’

Call for swift action

The fact that the expert recommendations for decriminalisation have not formed part of the drug summit’s recommendations have increased the hope that the NSW government will act quickly to implement the recommendations rather than leaving them to collect dust on the shelf like the Ice Inquiry recommendations.

‘We need the government to urgently respond to the report, with the appropriate funding attached for implementation and we need them to look carefully at the inherent unfairness of the Early Drug Detection Initiative (EDDI) in its current form,’ Emma Maiden, Uniting NSW.ACT’s Director of Advocacy and External Relations said.

‘A recommendation around the need to reform drug diversion laws is welcome,’ said Ms Faehrmann.

‘The vast majority of people caught with a personal quantity of illegal drugs are still charged and sent to court since the law came into place last year. This reform is urgent.’

While the report did not address the broader issues of drug reform Professor Lintzeris said that ‘there are many other sensible recommendations, and if everything recommended came to pass then that would indeed be significant progress.’

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► Continued from page 16

On 3 May, 2025 we are not being asked... we are being told which lying, cheating, manipulating, corrupt politician from our electorate that we want to put into parliament!

How the hell is this democracy? Ya know... 'gov-ernment by the people'?

Anthony Plesko
West Ballina

Win and lose

As democracies around the world are under increasing pressure, fair-minded Australians must do their bit to maintain our own civilised and relatively fair society.

Arguably, our upcoming federal election is of the greatest importance in this regard.

Mr Dutton is spending big, not only to win some teal seats back, but he's chasing after Labor in outer suburban seats (once Labor heartland), capitalising on disaffected voters in Victoria, and fighting Labor elsewhere.

Mr Dutton is out to win. We here in Richmond have no choice if we don't want him in The Lodge - we must maintain this seat for Labor.

My pitch here is to our Greens supporters:

If you vote 1 for Labor in Richmond, you will definitely help keep Mr Dutton out of The Lodge.

Dangerously, the converse is also true.

Forget the wishful thinking about minority government, Labor has to win more seats than Mr Dutton in the first place.

Of course, you can still exercise an effective vote for the Greens in the Senate, where your party's capacity to block or amend legislation has long been demonstrated.

This is the cold, hard political reality.

It's all about the numbers.
Ross Krippner
Bangalow

Cake and ice cream

The clown has put his tariffs in place. Americans are realising that although ridiculous, he is no longer funny.

But what happens economically, especially in the USA, is not the main game. All characters like Trump take the same track when their incompetence wrecks their economy. They start a war.

Iran has already been set up by the Trump administration for this purpose. It has the advantage of support from the all-powerful Jewish lobby and Israel. And Australia will play its part in the killing by providing Five Eyes services through Pine Gap.

But as far as our election campaign is concerned it is still a promise of cake and ice cream.

Ron Leeks
Ocean Shores

Future predictions

The editor chose to print a letter by a certain fellow, who requested that I no longer write letters to this publication. So I complied and haven't written here for more than a year. A previous letter predicted that the enormous global pandemic spending would obviously result in high inflation. This was ridiculed by the fellow who requested that I stop writing letters to this publication. Today the inflation has arrived and no one can dispute that.

Let's have another look at what's lying ahead.

Trump has promised to start bombing in about six or eight weeks, and the country he intends to bomb has solemnly promised that on the first day of the war, they will destroy all the Saudi oil refinery terminals, all the Saudi oil ports, to block the oil ship lanes and to destroy all the oil transport infrastructure and processing facilities in the entire Middle East.

► Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:
www.echo.net.au/letters.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Transparency?

As a previous Byron Council employee I was involved in the 1993 local government (LG) restructure. I personally think Byron Shire Council has moved away from the

principles of consultation and transparency that were part of the 1993 LG restructure.

The top-heavy structure that is now in place has people in positions that simply don't have a knowledge of what is happening in the workplaces they are responsible for.

People in this community would not be aware that during Pamela Westing's time as general manager she enforced her decision that outdoor staff could not talk to the elected Council.

As an employee in water and recycling in 2003 I was asked by the first two farmers on Main Arm Road to take reuse which emanated from Mullumbimby STP. The farmers asked if they could be given a copy of the results of the process monitoring that was carried out on the reuse being supplied to them. I met with the then director of W&R at the time and sought permission to do this. The director said no to providing that information. Not a very good example of transparency.

► Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:

www.echo.net.au/letters.

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Faraniphobic vision

If only we'd had a visionary like Paul Jones last century, to suggest a roundabout for Clifford Street! Wait, there was?

This is not just another intersection on the Coast Road. Councillors over three decades have launched grand plans for land acquisition - seemingly minus sustained dedication to fiscal and administrative follow-up. Two previous hard-earned grants for roundabouts lie fallow (2005, 2014) along with countless other fruitless resolutions and reversals. And here we are again!

Leave loftier visions momentarily to picture this scenario: a coroner is examining a fatal injury at a black spot where the community has lobbied for solutions for 30 years.

Countless proposals, mirroring this latest one, have already failed. Despite this, and ignoring expert advice, the relevant road authority (Council), rejected the funding awarded for an evidence-based, effective safety upgrade. With no fresh ideas for an alternative!

How impressed will her/his honour be with an explanation that traffic lights didn't gel with the lifestyle/tourism/NIMFY/fanariphobic vision of a certain, select element of Byron Shire? Would the 'lifestyle' influencers give it a second thought?

The dangerous precedent here Paul, is the cavalier and cravenly populist stupidity that abandoned civic responsibility.

Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

Battle of the blondes

Political leaflets are already hitting the letter boxes of Richmond voters (more will follow), a sure sign that the 'heat' is on.

The three majors (Greens, Labor and Nationals) are all running female blonde candidates and the photos indicate the hair straighteners and in one case the hair dye have been heavily engaged.

Policies you ask? I read all the recent political ads. Very few voters do, as the ones interested enough to read have already made up their minds. But the show must go on. It's all about promises in the future without any proof whatsoever that the same can or will be delivered. Justine fighting a defensive battle behind the Labor favourite Medicare. The Nationals candidate is running hard on Peter Dutton's promise to slash fuel excise by 50 per cent. A giveaway of \$10-\$20 dollars a week, easily understood by voters. The pie-in-the-sky nuclear energy plan Albanese claimed this week would cost \$600 billion was always foolish. It would take Australia, with almost zero nuclear expertise, at least 25 years to build one plant.

Terry Sharples
Tweed Heads

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Love The Planet set for Mullum

A new one-day eco-festival will be held in Mullumbimby, and organisers say it promises ‘immersive connection, thought-provoking discussion, and joyful action in service of the Earth’.

Love The Planet will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 10am to 9pm at Mullumbimby Civic Hall, and is an all-ages gathering.

Event organiser Raychel French, says the festival is a fundraiser for Save Wallum, a grassroots community group working to protect the unique and threatened Wallum landscape at Brunswick Heads.

Local voices

She says, ‘Love The Planet is set to bring together local voices, eco-warriors, creatives, and conservation champions for a day of purpose, unity and planet-friendly celebration. From First Nations wisdom and eco-conscious workshops to sustainability organisations, live music, activist panels, gardening



Raychel French, Love The Planet event organiser. Photo Nola Faye

demos, kids nature play, and plant-based food, this day will activate hearts and minds across generations’.

Highlights

Highlights include a deep ecology talk by Ruth Rosenhek, a renowned facilitator and lifelong activist.

Beloved singer-songwriter and Byron Shire local, Emily Lubitz, will perform, and identical twin sisters with a passion for Aussie fauna share their wild wisdom – up

close and educational fun for the whole family.

There will also be a syn-tropic gardening workshop and a workshop with Jarmbi, a cultural teacher and Earth protector.

Tickets are available at events.humanitix.com/love-the-planet, and are free for kids 12 and under.

‘This is more than a festival,’ says Raychel, ‘It’s a community coming together for action, healing, and celebration’.

Over \$10k raised for SHIFT



Over 100 supporters gathered at Crystalbrook in Byron Bay last Friday to celebrate a belated International Women’s Day and fundraiser for the SHIFT Project. The day raised \$11,500, which made MC Mandy Nolan and SHIFT’s Toni, co-founders Anne Goslett and Julie Wells, Mel and Cherie, all very happy. Photo Eve Jeffery

Australia’s trust in news market in decline: ACMA

A new report which examined Australia’s news market and its diversity has found the current federal regulatory framework does not provide a complete picture of Australia’s news diversity.

Published in March by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), the authors say, ‘news plays a critical role in informing citizens, particularly in times of crisis or emergency’.

‘It is also integral to promoting transparency and accountability of government and institutions, supporting social cohesion and resilience, and encouraging informed democratic discussion and electoral participation.

‘Australian audiences require access to reliable, accurate and independent information on matters that affect them to participate in an open, informed and inclusive society’.



News Media in Australia 2025 report

Key findings

Key findings of the report are that ‘news websites and apps are the most prevalent type of news outlet, but are not covered by the ACMA’s regulatory remit’.

‘A high proportion of news articles produced in Australia contain public interest journalism, news consumption is decreasing in Australia and Australians’

trust in news is declining.

‘Australia had a total of 2,864 professional news outlets across nine platforms in 2024.

‘The number of people in Australia for whom journalism is their main job decreased by 19 per cent from 2011 to 2021.

‘Free-to-air TV and news websites continue to be the most popular platforms Australians use to consume news (for the third year in a row), while social media continues to be the most popular platform for accessing news among younger Australians (aged 18 to 34).

Google and Meta

‘The ABC holds a greater share of audience attention for Australians aged 45 and over, while Google and Meta (which includes Facebook and Instagram) each hold a greater share of audience attention for Australian adults under 45’.

Grants up for grabs for community/creative projects

Grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible community groups, individuals and creatives are on offer from Byron Council.

Their Community Initiatives and Creative Public Spaces programs opened this week, and applications need to be completed before the deadline of May 16.

Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, said the purpose of Council’s ongoing investment in the two funding programs was to deliver small grants that could make a big difference to community groups and creatives and help them to generate outstanding outcomes and innovative projects.

‘We encourage applications for any event or project

that supports the environment, the creative life of the community, or that improves access and inclusion and opens up ways for more people to participate in our community,’ the mayor said.

The Creative Public Spaces program supported three site-responsive projects in 2024 that looked at reimagining our waterways, CBD walls and public spaces.

‘In particular, we are actively looking to support projects, activities and events from a diverse range of ages, cultures, abilities, and backgrounds, that look for new ways to activate our public spaces,’ she said.

The Community Initiatives program supported 11

projects in 2024.

‘Last year, the community initiatives grants supported a range of innovative projects including Junior Landcare, Elder Beats - rhythm and dance for seniors, Stories of Matriarchal Bundjalung, Music in the Valley Festival and a community access project at Eureka Public Hall.

‘Council’s grassroots funding programs have been running successfully for many years now and have been proven to help make inspiring projects happen in our community,’ the mayor said.

To find out more about the grants programs, visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Grants.

unblock PIPE CLEARING

Family owned and operated local business with 30 years of plumbing experience. Unblock Pipe Clearing has the latest technology and equipment for locating, eliminating and repairing all blockages – no matter what the size. Get the job done right the first time!

Phone James on 0429 888 683

Lic 378040C

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- ✓ 1.7t excavator and 3m tipper truck
- ✓ Septic systems
- ✓ Sewer treatment systems
- ✓ Reliable local family-run business
- ✓ 12 month guarantee on most jobs

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BANGALOW



Bangalow Tuckshop

Open: Wed to Sat, noon till late.
43 Byron Street, Bangalow
bangalowtuckshop.com
hello@bangalowtuckshop.com.au
@Bangalowtuckshop

Tuckshop serves up elevated comfort food and familiar favourites featuring locally sourced produce with super salads and seafood, wagyu steak, vegetables cooked on charcoal, and refreshing wines and cocktails that cater to today's foodie culture.

BILLINUDGEL



Rosefina's Mexican

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Lunch 12pm–2:30pm
Dinner 5pm–8:30pm
Sunday 12pm–8pm
8/10 Wilfred St, Billinudgel
www.rosefinas.place

Rosefina went retro and bought a Club Lounge to eat tacos and drink tequila.

BYRON BAY



Roca Byron Bay

Sun to Thur–6:30am–10pm
Fri & Sat–6:30am–midnight
14 Lawson St, Byron Bay
(02) 5642 0149
@rocabyronbay
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

Latin Fusion all-day dining

Enjoy delicious casual dining with flavors straight from the grill! Savor our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail.

Available daily from 2:30pm to 5pm.



Horizon Rooftop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS
Horizon Rooftop, Hotel Marvell
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
Open Daily | 12pm – late
NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED
Call: (02) 6685 7385
@horizonbyronbay

Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.

Enjoy hinterland views, stunning sunsets and signature cocktails showcasing local distilleries and breweries.



Forest Byron Bay

Open 7 days
Breakfast: 7:30 to 10:30am
Lunch on Verandah from 12 to 3pm
Dinner: 5:30 to 9pm
crystalbrookcollection.com/
byron/forest

Rainforest views, farm to table dining and a menu showcasing the best of Northern Rivers produce. Forest Byron Bay offers fresh, seasonal dishes and crafted cocktails.

Unwind with Golden Hour, 4 to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday, or enjoy house-made pasta with wine for Pasta Thursday.



Oyster Bar

4 Marvell St, Byron Bay
OPEN 7 DAYS
Breakfast 7–11:30am
Lunch 12–4pm
Dinner 5–10pm
Book
byronbayoysterbar.com.au

Hotel Marvell's newest seafood destination

OYSTER HOUR
Tuesday to Saturday 5–6pm
Serving \$3 oysters



North Byron Liquor Merchants

61 Bayshore Drive,
Byron Bay
6685 6500
liquor@northbyronhotel.com.au
Open 10am–8pm daily and
10am–9pm through Summer

'Byron's boutique bottle shop'

Local service
Old and rare wines
Natural wines
Craft beers
Specialty tequilas

BYRON BAY (continued)



Main Street

Open for takeaway daily,
12 midday until dinner.
Menu, more details –
@mainstreet_burgerbar
18 Jonson Street
(02) 6680 8832

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5.

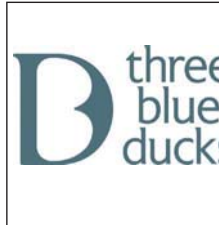


Lord Byron Distillery

Distillery & Tiki Bar
Open 10am–5pm
Tuesday to Saturday.
4 Banksia Drive Byron Bay
lordbyrondistillery.com.au
(02) 8646 4901

We have something for everyone...

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 - Gin Distilling Class
 - Cocktail Classes
- Book Online



Three Blue Ducks

The Farm, 11 Ewingsdale Rd.
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enquiries@threeblueducks.com
threeblueducks.com/byron
Open 7 days from 7am.
Mon–Thurs: breakfast & lunch
Fri–Sun: breakfast,
lunch & dinner

Delicious new winter dinner menu, live jazz every Sunday arvo, happy hour 3–5pm Friday to Sunday & our famous Sunday roast.

Enjoy a wander in the fields, meet the pigs, and picnic in the sun... there really is something for everyone.

LENNOX HEAD



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4/74 Ballina St, Lennox Head
Open Mon–Thurs from 3pm
Fri–Sun from 12pm
Online pick up orders
available daily 12pm
HAPPY HOUR: 3pm–5pm daily

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!

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Bookings essential.

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Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire

20 Burringbar St, Mullum
(02) 6684 2306
Mon–Fri 8am–3:30pm
Sat & Sun 8am–2pm
Thur & Fri nights from 3pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
www.empiremullum.com.au

Now open Thursday and Friday nights for tacos and cocktails from 3pm!

New Mexican-themed all-day menu just dropped featuring a mix of Mex and Empire classics.

HAPPY HOUR: Thursday and Friday 3–5pm with \$15 margaritas and \$7 cerveza.
¡Está estupendo!

WOLLONGBAR



Bonito Peruvian

@bonitoperuvian
www.bonitoperuvian.com.au
10/54 Simpson Ave,
Wollongbar
(02) 6628 3111
Open Wed / Thurs: 3pm to late
Fri / Sat: 12pm to late

Experience the bold and vibrant flavors of Peru at Bonito Peruvian in Wollongbar, where traditional recipes meet modern creativity. From fresh ceviche and anticucho skewers to savory ají de gallina, every dish is crafted with authentic ingredients and passion.

Pair your meal with a classic pisco sour and enjoy a true taste of Peru in a warm, inviting atmosphere.

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.



Chef Eduardo from Munay
Catering and some examples of
his stunning wedding catering.

Santos honey sales fund conservation.
You can donate through the EARTH platform at Santos for ecological causes.



The Good Life

Santos Organics: community and conservation



With the approach of Earth Day on April 22, it is a timely moment to reflect on the efforts of local businesses making a powerful impact on the environment and community. At the heart of Byron Bay, Santos Organics has a rock-solid commitment to ethical sourcing, environmental advocacy, and community engagement. Since transitioning to a not-for-profit environmental organisation in December 2016, Santos Organics has donated over \$345,000 back to the community, supporting 34 different charities and local groups. Santos prioritises sustainability and local economic resilience – over 85% of their products are produced, grown, or distributed locally.

Santos Organics also has a commitment to protecting the natural environment. For example, they actively support the Save Wallum campaign, a community-driven effort to safeguard the rare Wallum ecosystem in Brunswick Heads. This unique coastal habitat is under threat from a proposed luxury housing development on land that is both bushfire-prone and flood-prone, with designated High Ecological Value (HEV) and acid sulfate soils. The development site also serves as a crucial wildlife corridor. Since February 2024, passionate community members have been tirelessly protecting the site, with the case now before the Federal Court of Australia.

Santos Organics has a commitment to conservation, so solidarity with this cause has raised funds through a portion of their honey sales as well as the sale of commissioned artwork created by Binx Designs, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to conservation. They have also used their platform to amplify awareness and encourage community



involvement, urging locals to make a tangible impact in the fight for our Mother Earth.

Furthering their mission to support environmental activism, Santos Organics recently launched EARTH D // The Movement, a platform dedicated to empowering individuals to support meaningful environmental campaigns. Through EARTH D, people can donate, become members, and join in supporting vital ecological efforts. The platform reflects Santos Organics' belief that collective action is essential in protecting the planet for future generations.

'The fight to save Wallum is more than just protecting land; it is about preserving the biodiversity and natural heritage that makes our region unique,' Robert Baldwin, General Manager of Santos Organics says. As a first-time father himself, Rob says, 'We encourage everyone to show up, speak out, and make a powerful impact in the fight for a sustainable future.'

As Earth Day draws near, Santos Organics invites the Byron Bay community to reflect on the importance of preserving the natural environment. Whether through buying honey and supporting local initiatives like Save Wallum, contributing to, or joining, the EARTH D Movement, or choosing ethically-sourced products, every action counts. By standing together, the Byron Bay community can continue to champion the protection of our precious ecosystems.

■ For more information on how to get involved, visit <https://earthd.org.au>.

Bringing culinary artistry to the Northern Rivers

For couples seeking an unforgettable dining experience on their wedding day, Munay offers a boutique catering service that blends fine dining with the vibrant essence of Australian and Peruvian fusion cuisine. Rooted in a deep appreciation for local ingredients and bold flavours, Munay transforms wedding celebrations, private events, and intimate gatherings into immersive culinary journeys.

At the heart of Munay is Chef Eduardo Miranda, whose passion for food began in the vibrant markets of Lima, Peru. Educated at the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu Peru, Eduardo honed his craft in top restaurants across Lima, Chile, Spain, and Australia, perfecting a unique style that seamlessly fuses Peruvian influences with the richness of Australian produce. Since arriving in Byron Bay, Eduardo has brought his expertise to a variety of dining experiences, from large-scale wedding celebrations to exclusive chef-at-home services that offer restaurant-quality meals in the comfort of private homes.

Munay specialises in tailored wedding catering, from elegant sit-down receptions and shared feasts to sophisticated canapés and show-stopping grazing tables. The menus are inspired by seasonal,



locally-sourced ingredients, celebrating the diverse flavours of Northern Rivers produce while adding a refined international touch. Each dish is crafted with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring a dining experience that is as visually stunning as it is delicious.

Beyond weddings, Munay extends its expertise to bespoke private events, birthdays, and special occasions, offering

a personalised approach to catering that elevates any gathering. For those seeking an intimate and exclusive dining experience, Munay's chef-at-home service brings Eduardo's culinary artistry directly to clients, creating tailor-made menus and unforgettable meals in a private setting.

'Our goal is to create more than just a meal – we want to curate an experience that complements the essence of each occasion,' says Eduardo. 'Whether it's a wedding, an intimate dinner party, or a milestone celebration, we ensure that the food reflects the unique style and personality of our guests.'

Munay's commitment to sustainability and quality is reflected in every aspect of their service. By working closely with local suppliers, farmers, and artisans, they ensure that each dish is made with the freshest, most ethically-sourced ingredients available. Whether it's a decadent seafood spread, wood-fired meats, or vibrant plant-based offerings, Munay caters to a range of dietary preferences while delivering bold and balanced flavours.

■ To learn more about Munay's catering services, private dining experiences, or chef-at-home offerings visit www.munay.com.au or Instagram : @munay.catering.au.

Byron's gourmet mushrooms

Our exploration this week into mushroom-based wellness began with a captivating visit to the Byron Bay Gourmet Mushroom (BGM) stall at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market, owned by the lovely Skye Johnston. The vibrant display showcased a stunning array of fresh fungi, from colourful oyster varieties to shiitake and the unique Lion's Mane mushroom. Our focus was to delve into their intriguing mushroom jerky and medicinal tinctures.

Their marinated oyster mushroom jerky is a standout product, a delectable high-protein vegan snack boasting intricate umami flavours derived from a special blend of coconut aminos, maple syrup, and herbs. Watch for their upcoming release of Lion's Mane jerky, which is expected around Easter.

Beyond their fresh and dried offerings, BGM also produces their own in-house medicinal tinctures. These potent extracts are dual-extracted from whole mushroom fruiting bodies and thoughtfully combined with

synergistic herbs to enhance their benefits. Reishi, Lion's Mane, and Turkey Tail tinctures offer concentrated benefits: Reishi for immunity, stress, and sleep; Lion's Mane for cognitive function and nerve health; and Turkey Tail for immune support and gut health.

A must-try is their Reishi tonic, expertly crafted with Ooray plum, holy basil, and locally-sourced honey from their own hives. This tonic is not only delicious but also competitively priced compared to similar products, offering a unique opportunity to experience the potential wellness benefits of Reishi.

Learning from the knowledgeable staff, we discovered their jerky exemplifies the mushroom's versatility. Starting with 100% oyster and sometimes Lion's Mane, they marinate it in tamari, herbs, brown sugar, and Ooray plums, creating an umami 'bomb'. Slow dehydration yields a chewy, protein-rich snack, ideal for energy on trails, mid-morning

boosts, or adding savoury depth to meals.

The stall also highlighted the increasing popularity of medicinal mushroom tinctures. We learned about their dual extraction process, which captures both alcohol and water-soluble compounds. BGM offers Lion's Mane for cognitive benefits in the morning, potentially replacing coffee. Reishi, with anti-inflammatory and immune-boosting properties, is perfect for evening relaxation. Turkey Tail supports digestive health and can be taken anytime. Simple consumption – a few drops under the tongue or in a drink – enhances their appeal.

The rising interest in mushroom medicine reflects a growing understanding of their diverse health benefits,



including cognitive support, immune modulation, stress reduction, and digestive aid. Byron Bay Gourmet Mushroom exemplifies this movement, transforming simple fungi into both delicious snacks and potent wellness allies. Their dedication to quality and flavour makes exploring their mushroom jerky and tinctures an enticing and beneficial journey.

■ You'll find them at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am.

Bimbi
COFFEE SHOP

Open 6am – 12pm
Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.
@bimbi_coffee_shop
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Authentic Vietnamese cuisine

Open 7 days 11:30am – 8:00pm.

72a Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby.

4/16 The Terrace, Brunswick Heads.



pinklotusfood.com.au

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VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT



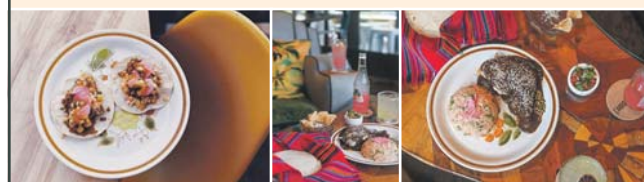
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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



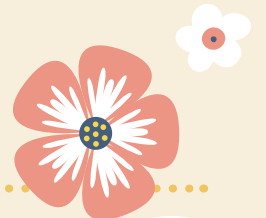
ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP

Looking for a fun and creative school holiday activity in Ocean Shores? Join us for a hands-on acrylic painting workshop!

In this exciting session, kids will explore bright abstract layers using splashes, textures, and even finger painting! Perfect for young artists aged 6 and up, they'll create vibrant, free-flowing backgrounds full of personality. Once the paint dries, we'll turn those layers into a colorful flower bouquet masterpiece!

Led by a skilled hands, this workshop is all about fun, and learning new techniques. Your child will leave with their own unique artwork and a huge sense of pride!

Dates: April 14, 16 & 23
Times: 9-11am | 3-5pm
Bookings: 0432 436 843



Acrylic painting workshop for kids!

Looking for fun school holiday activities? Look no further!

Dates: April 14, 16 & 23
Times: 9-11am | 3-5pm
Cost: \$40 per session
Ages: 6+
Bookings: 0432 436 843

Home Studio - Ocean Shores

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

KIDS' COOKING CLASSES

The North Byron Hotel (NBH) is thrilled to host more fun and interactive kids' cooking classes this school holidays! Running every Wednesday and Thursday from April 16 to 24, these hands-on classes offer little chefs the chance to get creative in the kitchen. Wednesdays will focus on making delicious pizzas from scratch, and Thursdays are all about crafting homemade gnocchi. While the kids are busy cooking up a storm, mums and dads can unwind and relax in the beautiful NBH garden with a drink and a tasty nibble. These popular classes have always been a hit, and the NBH team is excited to bring them back for another round of culinary fun! Register now to secure your child's spot and join in on the fun.

northbyronhotel.com.au
61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
02 6685 6500



SPAGHETTI CIRCUS HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Come and enjoy one, two or three days of circus fun with Spaghetti Circus. Holiday workshops will be held on Tuesday 22, Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 April at Spaghetti's premises at Mullumbimby Showground. Children can pick their own circus adventure! Classes include tightrope, big tramp and mini tramp, German wheel, tissu and trapeze, acro balance, circus games, hula hoops, juggling, and much more. Half-day sessions for children aged 4-6 years are \$50 from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and full-day sessions for 7-14 years are \$75 from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Early drop-off is available from 8.30am (at an additional cost).

Active Kids vouchers accepted
places are limited
www.spaghetticircus.com



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Surfing

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PRIVATE
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BOARDHIRE

BOOK TODAY
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02 6680 9443
BYRON BAY - LENNOX - BALLINA - BRUNSWICK HEADS

Come
Fly
with us

DAILY SUNRISE BALLOON FLIGHTS
Includes breakfast at Three Blue Ducks restaurant - The Farm
www.balloonaloft.com | 1300 723 279 | @balloonaloftbyronbay

BALLOON ALOFT

Offset this year's Easter Egg binge with a healthy, fun, family hot air balloon adventure! These school holidays are the perfect opportunity to get active and outdoors with the kids, do all the things you've been excited about since summer. Rise early and see the sun wash over the Northern Rivers, which is lush and greener than ever. Whether with friends or family, your hot air balloon experience is guaranteed to be a good time together and includes a relaxed breakfast afterwards at the Three Blue Ducks restaurant at The Farm, Byron Bay.

Book your spot now at www.balloonaloft.com

BETTER BY BIKE

Get the kids off their screens and into nature! With super-comfy e-bikes, this ride is sure to be the highlight of the holidays. Families can explore lush rainforests, discover quaint villages, and ride through abandoned rail tunnels. The whole family is sorted with infant seats, tow-behind bikes, and chariots for kids or pets. Lunch packs are also available. Choose pickup from your accommodation or meet at their Murwillumbah Railway Station shop – the start of the trail. They will make your day the best day ever! Call or book online today.

www.betterbybike.com.au
info@betterbybike.com.au
 0408 444 858

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

LET'S GO SURFING

Join Let's Go Surfing for an awesome time surfing or stand up paddle boarding these holidays. They offer private and group lessons and tours for all ages, as well as kids only lessons.

Lessons include all equipment and expert instruction in small groups, and provide education, maximum fun, and safety for your kids. They cover the basics from warm-up to paddling, catching waves and standing, while also catering to intermediate and advanced students. Kids also learn important surf and safety rules including info on rips, tides, sandbanks and waves.

Open 7 days 8:30am–4:30pm
 Shop 5, 11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
@letsgosurfingaustralia
 02 6680 9443
www.letsgosurfing.com.au



EXCITING VACATION CARE AT RAINBOW REGION KIDS!

Looking for an action-packed school holiday program? Rainbow Region Kids offers fun-filled excursions like cinema trips, rock climbing, and more! Their Vacation Care program keeps kids entertained, active, and engaged with exciting activities, themed days, and adventures.

Their program is affordable, government-subsidised, and run by experienced educators in a safe and welcoming environment.

Whether your child loves arts and crafts, sports, or thrilling excursions, there's something for everyone!

Bookings open now – spots fill fast!
 Locations: Mullumbimby, Alstonville, Wollongbar, Lismore, Dunoon, Kyogle and Casino

www.nrcg.org.au/RRK
 or call 0429 640 075 for more information!



HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

TUE 22 ★ WED 23 ★ THU 24 APRIL

MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND



Come and enjoy one, two or three days of circus fun!

BOOK NOW - PLACES ARE LIMITED
www.spaghetticircus.com

APRIL VACATION CARE AT RAINBOW REGION KIDS

For all children aged 5-12 years old enrolled in primary school

Roller World Lismore

BALLINA CINEMA!

ROCK CLIMBING

EASTER hunt DAY

LOCATIONS:

ALSTONVILLE, CASINO WEST,
 DUNOON, KYOGLE, LISMORE,
 MULLUMBIMBY and WOLLONGBAR

BOOK NOW

Call 0429 640 075 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)
 Email rrkassist@nrcg.org.au
 Web nrcg.org.au/rrk



THE SCOOP

The Byron Event Room

A brand-new purpose-built meeting room has opened in the heart of Byron Bay. Located on Marvell Street, within the recently completed BASQ House hotel, The Byron Event Room is a modern, light-filled meeting room for local businesses to use for impactful and imaginative retreats, meetings, training and strategy sessions.



It is available for bookings 7 days per week, between 7:00am and 7:00pm.

The Byron Event Room measures 35 square metres and has a 30-seat capacity. It is equipped with 85-inch TV with conference cam, wireless conferencing system and speakers, kitchenette with a Zip water tap, coffee and tea-making facilities

The room is climate controlled and external catering is permitted

Preferential accommodation rates available.

Contact the team at BASQ House for booking enquiries.

byroneventroom.com.au
02 5671 1000 • @byroneventroom
7 Marvell St, Byron Bay

Gondwana Green Day Out exceeds tree-planting goal in Mullumbimby

On Friday, 21 March, Gondwana Rainforest Trust hosted its inaugural Gondwana Green Day Out in Mullumbimby, aiming to plant 500 trees. Thanks to a passionate team of volunteers, supporters, and partners, they more than doubled their goal – planting 1,190 native trees and plants to restore a degraded riparian rainforest site. The event focused on creek bank regeneration, habitat restoration, and community action for climate and biodiversity. Specialist rainforest trees were selected to improve water quality, stabilise the land, and create long-term ecological impact. The event's success marks the beginning of broader efforts. Gondwana invites volunteers and business partners to join

future projects. Every \$10 donated plants a tree through their Rainforest Rangers program.

Learn more or get involved at
www.rainforestrangers.org



Anglican Parish of Byron

The Anglican Parish of Byron is excited to offer worship in various locations across Byron Shire this Easter (see advertisement on page 18). The Easter long weekend provides many opportunities to gather in communities of mutual support and encouragement.

'However we choose to form community, the prayer of Byron Anglicans is that we are able to share a sense of hope in an uncertain world, which fosters peace and love for all peoples throughout 2025 and beyond.'

With every blessing, Byron Anglicans.



Hungerford Lehmann Solicitors

At Hungerford Lehmann Solicitors, Josh Allan and staff will provide expert legal guidance and unwavering support to the residents and locals of the Northern Rivers.

Established in 1922, the firm boasts decades of experience assisting clients both across Australia and internationally.

Located in the heart of Mullumbimby, they offer a wide range of legal services, including Property Law (buying, selling, leasing, subdivision), Wills and Estates (succession planning, probate, deceased estates), Retail and Commercial Leasing, and Commercial and Business Law. Whether you're a local resident or managing matters from afar, Hungerford Lehman is your trusted partner, ready to assist with personalised legal advice and exceptional

service. Contact them today for the professional support you deserve.

64 Mcgoughans Lane, Mullumbimby
advice@hungerfordlegal.com.au
02 6684 2477



Byron Community College

Byron Community College is offering two exciting, subsidised courses for aspiring artists looking to develop their creative skills: CUA31120 Certificate III in Visual Arts, and Creative Art and Design.

The Certificate III in Visual Arts provides a solid foundation in visual arts, covering drawing, art theory, painting, sculpture and textiles. With expert guidance, students will develop their unique artistic style.

This 22-week course begins on Tuesday, 13 May 2025.

For those seeking an introduction to the arts, the Creative Art and Design course offers an 8-week journey into 2D and 3D design, textiles, and various artistic techniques, starting 13 May 2025.



This training is subsidised by the NSW Government and subject to availability.

Contact: 02 6684 3374
www.byroncollege.org.au

Billi Lids Early Learning is re-opening!

Under the new ownership of Mitch and Belinda Hutchinson, Billi Lids will continue to carry on the quality early education that has been offered to Billinudgel and surrounds for the last 25 years.

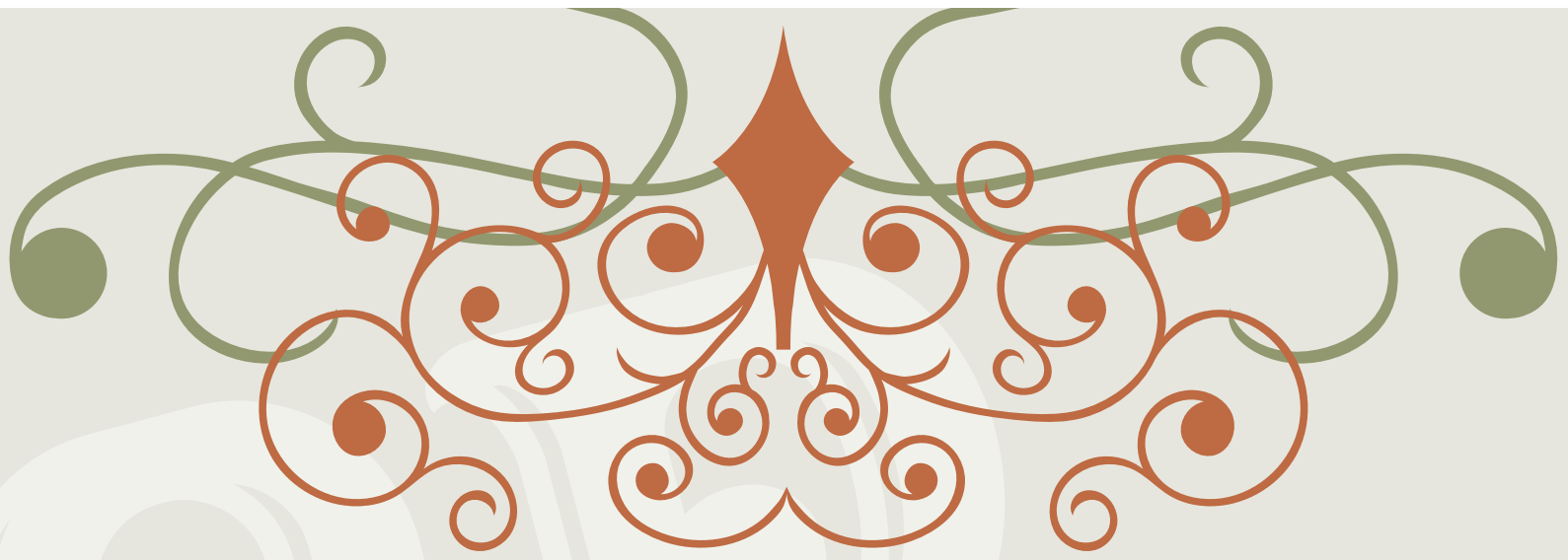
As preschool teachers and operators of other local centres, Mitch and Belinda will aim to create an environment that offers a safe, nurturing environment for children aged two years old to school age, complete with engaging learning spaces designed to foster your child's development and creativity.

They will also be looking at transforming the current space to have spaces for children under 2, with more information coming in the next few months.

To help your family secure a spot, please head to their website and join the waiting list.

www.billilids.com.au





Mullum Plant Fair at Mullum Showgrounds

The Mullum Plant Fair is excited to announce its new location at the Mullum Showgrounds. Moving to a bigger space allows them to grow and cultivate a community of plant lovers!

The Mullum Plant Fair is a haven for plant-



passionate people, gardeners, and eco-conscious communities seeking a day of inspiration, education, and sustainable living.

Come down to the Showgrounds on Saturday, 26 April, between 9am and 2pm, and enjoy delicious food, drinks, talks and something for the kids, too. Spend the day looking at all the beautiful natives, fruit trees and ornamentals on offer while learning about what is great for growing in our region!

Date: Saturday, 26 April
Location: Mullum Showgrounds
Time: 9am – 2pm
Gold coin donation
<https://mullumseed.org.au>

The Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts

Since its inception in 1923, the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts has been a cornerstone of the Tweed Shire's cultural identity. They are proud to welcome competitors in speech, music, and dance from across a wide region, stretching from the Sunshine Coast in the North to the Clarence Valley in the South.

In 2023, they celebrated their 100th anniversary, and in 2024, were honoured to receive the Tweed Shire Council Arts and Culture Australia Day Award, recognising a significant contribution to the cultural fabric of the Tweed Shire. They are known as 'the friendly festival' for their encouragement of young people who would

like to experience the joy of being on stage as a musician, actor or dancer.

Contact Simone Wong
0439 937 449
mtpa.president1923@gmail.com
www.compsonline.com.au



Exciting vacation care at Rainbow Region Kids!

Looking for an action-packed school holiday program? Rainbow Region Kids offers fun-filled excursions like cinema trips, rock climbing, and more! Their Vacation Care program keeps kids entertained, active, and engaged with exciting activities, themed days, and adventures.

Their program is affordable, government-subsidised, and run by experienced educators in a safe and welcoming environment. Whether your child loves arts and crafts, sports, or thrilling excursions, there's something for everyone!

Bookings open now – spots fill fast!

Locations: Mullumbimby, Alstonville, Wollongbar, Lismore, Dunoon, Kyogle and Casino.



Visit www.nrcg.org.au/RRK
or call 0429 640 075
for more information!

Animal foster carers needed

Northern Rivers Animal Services (NRAS) were buoyed by the NSW State Government's recent announcement of rent reforms to end, 'no grounds evictions'.

Australia has one of the highest pet ownership rates in the world, and with more people renting, and renting for longer, many pet-owning renters have resorted to surrendering their companion animals; relinquishing them to shelters and pounds in a desperate bid to find suitable accommodation for themselves and their families.

After Covid and the 2022 floods, animal surrenders have significantly increased whilst foster carers have drastically decreased. This means rescue shelters such as the Ballina-based facility operated by NRAS, have long waiting-lists for animals to come into care.

If you can offer your heart and home to become a foster carer, contact Northern Rivers Animal Services.

02 6681 1860
shelter@nras.org.au
www.nras.org.au



Ord Minnett

Research allows clients to make informed, evidence-based decisions when deciding where to invest their savings. At a time when the market is faced with local and global uncertainty, the information Ord Minnett's in-house research teams produce becomes invaluable. Their clients receive daily research updates, covering hundreds of listed companies, ranging from small cap to large cap organisations.

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Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✿ **Tiny Beautiful Things** is cathartic, heartfelt and human – a story that centres around the character Sugar, an anonymous online advice columnist who offers her advice to real life strangers that are seeking help with real life problems.

Shows Wednesday to Saturday at the Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby
Tickets from \$40 at trybooking.com

✿ **YUCK** are back in town, bringing their brand spankin' sellout show. Expect larrikin humour, high-flying acrobatics, and a ripper night of comedy and circus. Tradies, Vegemite, and tinnies; this show is an ode to all things Kath and Kim, *Bondi Rescue*, and the Aussie larrikin Identity.

Friday at 6pm at the Brunswick Picture House
Tickets from \$30 at brunswickpicturehouse.com



✿ The team behind the viral **Premier Gladys** videos during Covid present a new musical comedy about Gladys Berejiklian, the woman who 'saved Australia' but couldn't save herself.

Saturday at 7pm at the Byron Theatre.
Tickets from \$33.85 at byroncentre.com.au



✿ Award-winning musical artist **Merryn Jeann** returns home from an international tour to play an electrifying performance that has likened her to the early Kate Bush, Bjork, and PJ Harvey.

Saturday from 6pm at Ewingsdale Hall
Tickets \$20 at humantix.com or \$25 on the door



✿ **Loki Hough** takes to any stage with a careful consideration of the space in which he performs and infuses it with a unique blend of passion, expertise, and raw energy – his sets are a cohesive mix of covers and original compositions.

Sunday from 4pm at the Bangalow Hotel
Free show

✿ Fresh off a huge year of releases, sold-out shows, and a collaboration on Matt Corby's latest EP, **Will Clift** is stripping it back for his **'I Know You Know'** solo acoustic tour. Known for his smooth vocals and raw storytelling, Will brings his music to life in an intimate, stripped-back setting.

Monday from 7pm at The Rails, Byron Bay
Free show



Friday at The Rails will be EPIC

EPIC, created to boldly go where other cover bands dare not, are now celebrating their tenth year of aurally-stimulating audiences along the Australian east coast. EPIC was founded by the incredibly multitasking and visionary musician, the late Jesse Balfour (1967-2024). Jesse had one main aim for EPIC: To play the songs that other cover bands won't.

EPIC features the incredible talents of Alan Park (keyboards), Stuart Kent (vocals/guitar), James Palmer (vocals/drums), and Greg Strong (vocals/bass).

Together, the EPIC lineup has performed alongside some fantastic artists, including Sir Cliff Richard, The Doobie Brothers, Earth, Wind & Fire, Small Faces, The Shadows, 10cc, Beggars Opera, Mitch King, Phil Emmanuel, Daddy Cool, Skyhooks, Todd Robinson, Ian Moss, Peter Ryan, Brian Cadd, Dame Edna, Billy Connolly, and the list goes on.

When Jesse put EPIC together, he ensured the following:

All songs in the EPIC repertoire have been hits on a grand scale, and EPIC reproduces each song with accurate respect to the original, representing all critical parts with class and flair while still allowing the members' personalities and musical influences to shine through. This is all delivered through state-of-the-art sound and lighting production at every venue.

EPIC is currently one of the highest-rotated bands at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay, one of the premier live music venues on the east coast of Australia.

Prepare to embark on a journey back to the era when ROCK was truly EPIC!

This Friday at The Rails from 8pm.

VOX CALDERA CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENTS

NOW AT MOONRISE

EASTER CHORAL CONCERT

ALLEGRI, BACH, JOSQUIN, MACLEAN, OCKEGHEM, PURCELL, VICTORIA

3PM SUNDAY APRIL 13

THE MUSIC ESTUARY – ST MARY'S BALLINA
 38-42 NORTON STREET

\$25 / \$20 CONCESSION
 CHILDREN FREE
 TICKETS AT THE DOOR
 (CASH PREFERRED)
 OR BUY ONLINE AT
 WWW.THEMUSICESTUARY.ORG

DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS ROUTLEY

Northern Rivers Conservatorium THE MUSIC ESTUARY ST MARY'S BALLINA

BUY ONLINE

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL Murrumbidgee Community CDF

Murbah Youth Action Group Presents

MURBAH YOUTH FEST 2025

FREE ENTRY!!!

- Bubble Soccer
- Food trucks
- Drug & alcohol free event
- Battle of the Bands
- Talent Quest
- Cosplay Contest
- Creative markets and Workshops
- 3v3 Basketball Comp
- Henna Art
- Local Art Exhibition

Saturday **12** April, 2025

KNOX PARK MURWILLUMBAH

10:00AM – 4:00PM

for more information, contact
 0266723003
 Insta: @murbahyouth2484
 youthworker@mccentre.org.au

MISSION AUSTRALIA headspace SONGDYNASTY Tweed Heads TWEED VALLEY BASKETBALL GambleAware Mid & Northern NSW

BYRON THEATRE

BYRON THEATRE

APRIL 25-26

A FILM RETROSPECTIVE:
 FOUR FILMS BY AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER
 RICHARD MORDAUNT

BYRON THEATRE .COM

Winner, winner, (winner) – Bluesfest dinner

What happens when two Melburnians and a Sydney lad, who have all had the honour of winning the International Blues Challenge, get together to play guitar and kick around a few songs? It's blues, blues, blues all the way to Byron.

With eight USA Blues Music Award nominations, career tour dates in 20 countries, and her induction into the Blues Victoria Hall of Fame, Fiona Boyes is a relentless and curious musical explorer. She plays deep blues, influenced by a myriad of traditional regional styles and has carved an international reputation as a blues guitarist, bandleader, vocalist and songwriter.

Curiously, when she first got started as a guitarist, one of the first times she got out of Melbourne was to travel to Bluesfest in 1995 when it was 'a bunch of fields at Belongil'.

Boyes made history in 2003 as the first artist from outside North America – and the first woman – to win the prestigious International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN. Twenty-one years on, she reigns as the undisputed queen of Australian blues. With eight nominations in

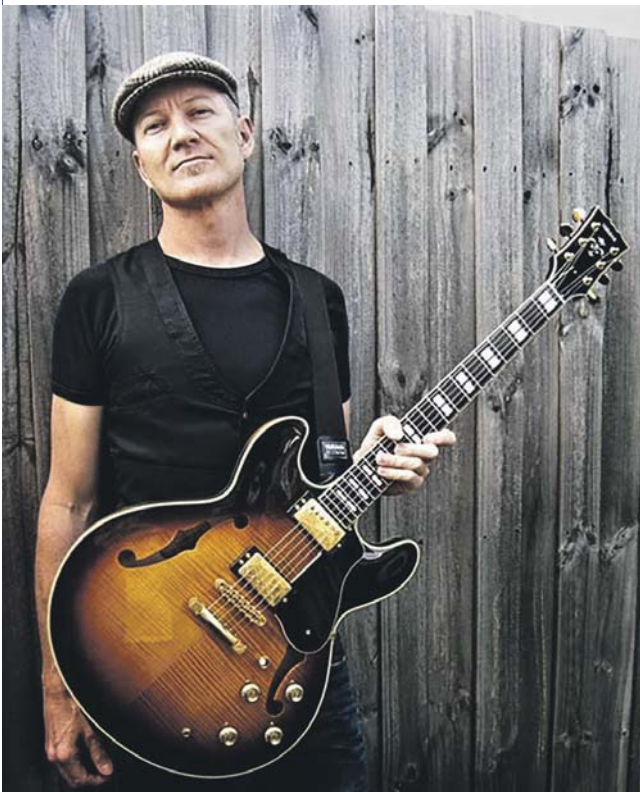
the USA Blues Foundation's Blues Music Awards and three nods in this year's USA Blues Blast Music Awards (including Best Traditional Blues Album, Female Artist, and Slide Guitarist of the Year), Fiona's influence spans continents. Her impressive career has seen her tour extensively, recording and performing with legends such as Pinetop Perkins, Hubert Sumlin, and Australia's own Chris Wilson.

Even when Melbourne guitar powerhouse, Jimi Hocking was at school at Sandy Tech, Hocking was never, ever without his guitar in hand. It was impossible to imagine him ever doing anything else but be a musician. Hocking followed Fiona's groundbreaking win by claiming first place just two years later at the International Blues Challenge in 2005. A seasoned musician who found rock 'n' roll stardom with The Screaming Jets in 1993, Jimi's versatility shines through his blues projects like Jimi the Human, Spectre 7, and Jimi Hocking's Blues Machine. He was named MBAS Blues Musician of the Year in 2004 and continues to be a beloved figure in the Australian music scene,

transitioning seamlessly between rock, blues, and solo ventures. Frank Sultana brought Australian blues full circle in 2023 when he triumphed at the International Blues Challenge, almost 20 years after Hocking's win. Since debuting in 2011, Frank has carved a niche for himself on the east coast scene, releasing 10 albums, four EPs, and touring both domestically and internationally. His raw, evocative songwriting and performances have earned him multiple Sydney Blues Society Awards, including Artist of the Year and Traditional Blues, with another Best Songwriter win in 2024. Together, Fiona, Jimi, and Frank are set to deliver a powerhouse performance, sharing the stage as well as their road-tested stories, including their collective Memphis Blues Challenge victories.

Together as The Memphis Three, Fiona Boyes, Jimi Hocking and Frank Sultana will curl your Bluesfest toes when they play at Tyagarah on Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

There are still some (but not many) tickets available for Bluesfest at bluesfest.com.au.



BFF
2025

Bangalow
Film
Festival

**APRIL 30TH
- MAY 4TH**

**WORLD
CLASS
FILMS
SMALL
TOWN
CHARM**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
bangalowfilmfestival.com.au

Emma Pask Duo

Friday 2nd May

Award winning Australian vocalist
Emma Pask is heading to Lismore!

Well known for spending the last 20 years by the side of jazz virtuoso James Morrison, Emma Pask has firmly established herself as one of this country's favourite voices in Jazz.

Emma will be joined by the incomparable Kevin Hunt on piano. Kevin is a leading player on the Australian Jazz scene and has been since the late 70's. Emma and Kevin compliment each other perfectly.

"Many singers sing jazz songs, but when you hear the real thing, it's a totally different experience. Emma is the one who inspires others to want to sing jazz."

- James Morrison

\$40 / \$28 / \$18

NRC Concert Room,
152 Keen St, Lismore

Northern Rivers
Conservatorium

events.nrcac.edu.au



Now at Moonrise

Vox Caldera, directed by Nicholas Routley present 'Now at Moonrise', a program of choral music leading towards Easter.

From the soaring, endless melodies of Ockghem, through the profound pilgrimages of Josquin, and the sublime 'Miserere of Allegri', to the wonderful motet 'Jesu, meine Freude', each work carries a profound message of hope and new light.

The title of this concert, 'Now at Moonrise', comes from a poem by that great modern interpreter of the Christian message, the Aotearoa poet James K Baxter. This has been set to music for chamber choir by the composer Clare Maclean, music which draws on the inexhaustible wellspring of early Renaissance music, and even plainsong, for its timeless beauty. 'Christ the King' is the first of a long series of choral pieces by Maclean, many written for the Sydney Chamber Choir, who pioneered the singing of Ockeghem and Josquin in this country. The Sydney Chamber Choir was founded by Vox Caldera's director, Nicholas Routley.

'Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee', is the text of Purcell's achingly beautiful miniature which completes Vox Caldera's program. In these dark days we all need that which nourishes our spirit and unclouds our mind, thus fostering hope, tolerance and understanding.

Now at Moonrise is on Sunday at 3pm at St Mary's Church, Ballina.

Tickets \$25/\$20 and children are free

Bookings via The Music Estuary website: themusicestuary.org, or cash at the door.

Advertisement for Bay Sounds Northern Rivers Song Comp. Includes a photo of a woman playing a keyboard and text about submitting original tracks for a chance to be professionally recorded at the SAE Byron Bay campus.

GIG GUIDE

It's FREE to list your gigs in the gig guide. gigs@echo.net.au w: echo.net.au/gig-guide



Grid of gig listings for Wednesday 14, Thursday 10, Friday 11, Saturday 12, Sunday 13, Monday 14, Tuesday 15, and Wednesday 16. Each listing includes the venue, time, and performer name.

Palace Cinemas listings for Byron Bay and Ballina Fair Cinemas. Includes movie titles, session times, and QR codes for booking.

Confessions of a Secret Snorer

Mandy Nolan

For years I have done a joke about my husband snoring. The truth is – my husband doesn’t really snore. He makes that weird breathing sound that’s a bit like a tiny leak in an air mattress. It’s annoying, but still kind of cute. The snorer was an ex. He snored like a chainsaw. I didn’t sleep but I got a joke that I have used for over 20 years. I told all the partners who came after that, if they loved me they had to accept that everyone would come to believe they had sleep apnoea.

I snore. It’s karma. Just as I used to do my gluten-intolerant jokes, and then I became gluten-intolerant, it turns out, that once again the joke’s on me. I snore. I now know what it’s like to be that person who is the object of social derision. The person who drives their partner nuts in the night. And not in a good way. The person who for some reason out of their control goes to bed a sweet angel, but sleeps like a chainsaw.

I did a sleep study. I don’t have sleep aponea. I am just annoying. I googled why you snore. Genetic. Can be lifestyle. Like are you a giant booze hound? I was. I haven’t drunk alcohol for almost three years now. And yes, the snoring is a lot less. Because the drunk snore is without a doubt THE WORST.

Other causes can be smoking. I stopped that too. So it’s helped, my snore is no longer in surround sound. And some nights I don’t snore at all. But if I’m tired it’s game over if you want to sleep beside me. Apparently I have little bursts. Some nights I am the DJ of my own throaty subwoofers. And please don’t record me to play me back. My husband tried that once and it was excruciating. I felt weirdly violated. Which was funny, because so did he.

The other snore cause is being a bit fat. And I’ve certainly given the scales a nudge. So I’ve dropped the kilos and I’m now a regular at the gym. And yes, the snoring has reduced but it’s not gone completely. Apparently when it comes to ageing sometimes you get a saggy throat. Gross. On the inside. There’s



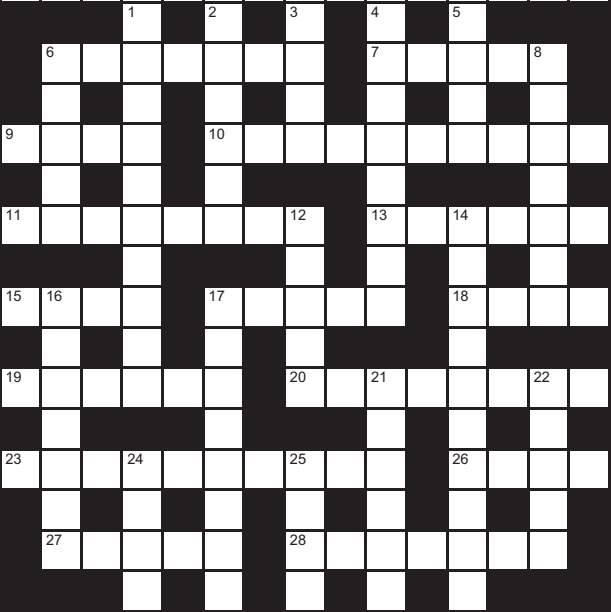
I snore. I now know what it’s like to be that person who is the object of social derision. The person who drives their partner nuts in the night. And not in a good way.

no machine at the gym that works out those muscles. Well not one I’m prepared to use in a public setting. Someone told me about mouth taping. That’s when you tape your mouth shut. Weirdly that’s what so many people in my life have hoped I’d do for a long time. But when I’m awake, not sleeping. I have made a living out of an untaped mouth, it goes against my core values to tape my mouth shut at night. I tried it and I felt like a hostage. And the only tape I had was gaffer tape, so on the upside when I ripped it off I also gave myself a lip wax. I tried the old sleeping on my side. It’s the best for me actually. If I sleep

on my side I hardly ever snore. But the bogan in me wants to go face to ceiling. I pack in pillows like a retaining wall. But my sleeping self just chucks them on the floor and goes for the snore. I decided to maybe make peace with my snore. Apparently there is some evolutionary purpose. Besides stopping wild beasts from tearing you apart, mainly because you’re scarier than any bear, it’s the announcement of vulnerability. The snorer provides auditory stimulus to those around them, fragmenting sleep and increasing alertness of their group, allowing both sleep and protection. Aha! I snore so my husband will protect me. I can’t wait to tell him that. At 3am when the walls are shaking with the deep meditative thrum of my sagging throat, if I imagine all the feelings he has for me, I don’t think protection is one of them. So I snore. Any tips? I’ve signed up for Face Yoga.

■ Mandy Nolan’s Soapbox column has appeared in *The Echo* for almost 23 years. The personal and the political often meet here; she’s also been the Greens federal candidate since before the last federal election. *The Echo*’s coverage of political issues will remain as comprehensive and fair as it has ever been, outside this opinion column which, as always, contains Mandy’s personal opinions only.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke #50



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 6. Violation right in the middle of a power cut (7)
- 7. Mysterious aura surrounds bishop of this Caribbean island (5)
- 9. Meat about to be withdrawn from show (4)
- 10. Driver of classical racer gets applause when skirting a disturbance (10)
- 11. Attractive MC holds tagine awkwardly (8)
- 13. Central feature of battle (6)
- 15. Prompt projection (4)
- 17. Eggs initially sold to useful idiot? (5)
- 18. Multi-coloured saw, not small (4)
- 19. Battle over Dunkirk’s junction (6)
- 20. Platforms unfairly unsight Second Assembly (8)
- 23. Lies about number hiker butchered in battle (6,4)
- 26. Zealous prima donna is back (4)
- 27. Inaccessible place, said to be weird (5)
- 28. Hacker using computer corrupted *The Echo* (7)

DOWN

- 1. Last daring deployment for battle (10)
- 2. Verbal directions by Nick to provide government support for rich people (3,3)
- 3. Fellow ate rotten cheese (4)
- 4. Stalin ordered mother to stay inside with lucky charm (8)
- 5. Couple right on time (4)
- 6. Old man at difficult age produces final letter (5)
- 8. Mean to say, ‘Yonks’ (7)
- 12. Trainer takes bus (5)
- 14. Copies Charlie left put aside carelessly (10)
- 16. Puritanical type imbibes English liqueur, primarily as a starter (7)
- 17. Iranian leader appears in a strange state of undress, revealing extra things (8)
- 21. Shakespeare’s merchant parts with yen for crappy goods (6)
- 22. King George, an upright character, starts to mimic *Echo*’s smut (5)
- 24. Check announced for part of footpath (4)
- 25. Single message produces distinctive doctrines (4)

Quick Clues

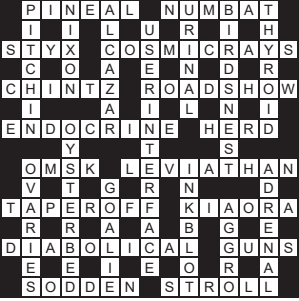
ACROSS

- 6. Intense anger or indignation (7)
- 7. Caribbean island known for its beaches (5)
- 9. Young cows’ meat (4)
- 10. Ancient racing cart driver (10)
- 11. Attracting iron or steel (8)
- 13. Halfway point (6)
- 15. Sharp pointed attachment for riding boots (4)
- 17. Fish or amphibian eggs (5)
- 18. Having patches of different colours (4)
- 19. French city, site of WWI battle (6)
- 20. Political campaign events (8)
- 23. American Revolution battle site (6,4)
- 26. Enthusiastic or eager (4)
- 27. Eagle’s high nest (5)
- 28. Large, broad-bladed knife (7)

DOWN

- 1. WWII battle site, now Volgograd (10)
- 2. Reduction in government levies (3,3)
- 3. Crumbly Greek cheese (4)
- 4. Lucky charm or amulet (8)
- 5. Musical piece for two performers (4)
- 6. Last letter of Greek alphabet (5)
- 8. Typical or usual amount (7)
- 12. Sports team instructor (5)
- 14. Exact copies or replicas (10)
- 16. Introductory piece of music (7)
- 17. Miscellaneous small items (8)
- 21. Stuff of inferior quality, especially relating to merchandise (6)
- 22. Ingrained dirt or filth (5)
- 24. Edge of a pavement (4)
- 25. Distinctive doctrines or theories (4)

Last week’s solution #49



STARS BY LILITH

Mercury’s out of retrograde, joined this upcoming weekend by romantic Venus and stylish Libra full moon. Get ready for this triple blessing by dressing up and enjoying a sparkling glass of scintillating socialising...



ARIES THE RAM

ARIES: Recent Mercury/Venus retrogrades have asked you for an eyes wide open look at certain cycles approaching their use-by date. With Mercury in gear again, your path to the future brightens, decision-making gets easier, and sweet Venus sashaying forward in her most affectionate mode clarifies interpersonal misunderstandings.

TAURUS: Hopefully you’ve made it through unscathed by the poor wardrobe choices, unsatisfying haircuts and questionable choices that can occur when your prima planet Venus retrogrades. If not, then look forward to Venus correcting course next weekend and powering forward again in one of the zodiac’s most artistic signs.

GEMINI: With your mentor planet Mercury on the move again, this week in its most sensitive mode, nice and easy does it, Twins. Don’t let a desire to experiment with new methodologies and the latest, greatest technology overrun your ability to read the room. Be patient, be kind.

CANCER: Mercury back on track in healing mode supports interpersonal reconciliations, so while protecting what’s important to you, tap into the subtle undercurrents of this week’s situations and resist acting on impulse. Feel your way through the pros and cons, then make your move when the timing’s right.

LEO: April breaks into beautiful bloom now communication and travel influencer Mercury’s back in its groove, doing its thing: tick. And late week sees the welcome return of Venus to super-charm mode: another tick. Want more? Try this week’s sun in its most generous and outgoing mood.

VIRGO: Virgo’s ruling planet Mercury in your opposite and complementary sign on the astrowheel is this week’s cue to let friends, loved ones and close colleagues know how much they mean to you, in whatever your love languages are, whether affectionate words, service, gifts, quality time or physical touch.

LIBRA: As Venus flows forward in her most imaginative, enchanting and poetic placement, the upcoming weekend’s annual full moon in your sign is this year’s hottest date to celebrate all the things that make Libran hearts sing: your romantic nature, fabulous fashion sense and elegant aesthetic for starters.

SCORPIO: Had enough weighing up pros and cons, feeling it’s time to take charge? While the zodiac’s fieriest energies are exciting, they can also be a stimulant to act impulsively, making it necessary to be mindful of the repercussions and long-term consequences of whatever changes we set in motion.

SAGITTARIUS: With the sun lighting up your sector of creativity and fun until April 19, you’re ready to blaze new trails. But before you gallop headlong into the latest excitement, give things a little more time to develop before totally committing – at least until Venus emerges from her retreat next weekend.

CAPRICORN: If recent retrogrades sparked misunderstandings which prompted serious self-reflection, with Mercury now heading direct, the fog lifts, clarity returns and illusions dissolve. Practical Capricorns make use of reality checks, and this week supports courageously redesigning relationships to honor and support differences.

AQUARIUS: Media planet Mercury’s plugged in again, but other astral patterns suggest it still might be wise to pause before broadcasting anything important until Venus moves forward this coming weekend, and you can present your news, your innovative concepts and provocative opinions to a more receptive audience.

PISCES: Pisces’ planet ruler Neptune shifting into your money zone for the foreseeable future can generate new and interesting fund-raising ideas, though as always, conditions apply: which are an increased need for economic vigilance and financial caution. Most exciting news? Charming Venus sashays forward in Pisces this coming weekend.

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on **6684 1777**

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office:

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to

Friday, 9am–5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend.

Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

Publication day is Wednesday, booking deadlines are the day before publication.

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border): \$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:
www.echo.net.au/classified-ads

Echo

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FREE RENT FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Self motivated and discreet person or couple with experience in and love of property maintenance, organic gardening and/or regenerative landcare preferred. Would suit semi-retired. 14 hours per week plus daily pet care in exchange for private 1BR cabin in bush setting close to Brunswick Heads. Not suitable for pets or children as unfenced and high decks. No drugs, no smoking/vaping. Please send summary of experience to **brunslandcare@gmail.com**

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Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES. Phone 66845517, 0418481617

WANTED

LP RECORDS: good condition, no op shop crap! Matt 0401955052

TREE FERNS

Any shape, size. Royalties paid. Ongoing supply needed. 0414904396

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CARAVANS

We buy, sell & consign. All makes & models. 0408 758 688

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2 FREE STANDING HOUSES ON ONE BLOCK IN GOONELLABAH. <https://www.domain.com.au/8a-8b-jennifer-place-goonellabah-nsw-2480-2019800564> OR mobile 0429023402

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LOCAL REMOVAL

& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

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School Crossing Supervisor (Part-Time) Byron Bay Public School

You're ready to show up and make an impact on your local community.

In this Role, you'll

Become a Road Safety Hero that is held in very high esteem in our communities and vital to the safety of our kids, parents, teachers and local motorists. You'll also grow to be a much-loved familiar face around the school with a unique opportunity to touch the lives of countless families.

Byron Bay Public School shifts fall between the school zone hours of 8:20am to 9:20am and 2:30pm to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday, with 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon. School Crossings require 20 hours of supervising per fortnight.

You will receive an hourly rate along with superannuation, and you will also be compensated during school holidays from Terms 1 to 3.

About you

You're reliable and prepared to show up for your community – in good or bad weather.

You'll display effective communication skills and be alert to potential dangers.

Applicants must be 18 years of age at the time of appointment. All training, uniforms and equipment will be provided. And one more thing! As you'll be working with children on our roads, your willingness to obtain a Working with Children Check, Reference Checks, Police Check, and a Health Assessment is vital. Don't worry if you haven't done this before, we will help you through the process! If you already have a Working with Children Check, that's fantastic as that will speed up the process.

Applications close 11:59pm, Wednesday 16 April 2025

Apply Now: jobs.transport.nsw.gov.au/job-invite/98850/

If you have any questions regarding this role or any other locations, please contact: Sandhini Chaudhary via sandhini.chaudhary@transport.nsw.gov.au

For more information and more roles, please visit **jobs.transport.nsw.gov.au** and search for 'School Crossing Supervisors' and find your preferred location.



Mullumbimby & District
Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Kitchen Hands -
- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
- Community Support Assistants -

MDNC is in needs of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family. All skill sets welcome.

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH



FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come one come all and join us in a meal or just a chat. Takeaway most welcome: COVID safe rules apply. Frozen takeaway meals now available.

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

Corner of Cherry & Crane. Just behind the Presbyterian Church.



POSITIONS VACANT

CANE SEASONAL TRUCK DRIVERS
wanted! HC or MC licence holders for the Condong, Broadwater or Harwood NSW sugar mill areas. Contact Wendy. Keel@sctlogistics.com.au with a resume or 0409568795, or apply direct at seek.com.au/job/82948461

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Work available in busy adult parlour. Travellers welcome. 66816038 for details.

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Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School has the following exciting opportunity:
Primary Class Teacher Full Time (Class 3)
Applications close at 5pm on Sunday, 27 April 2025
For the Position Description and details on how to apply, please refer to our website
shearwater.nsw.edu.au/work-at-shearwater/


School Crossing Supervisor (Part-Time) St John’s Primary School – Mullumbimby

You’re ready to show up and make an impact on your local community.

In this Role, you’ll

Become a Road Safety Hero that is held in very high esteem in our communities and vital to the safety of our kids, parents, teachers and local motorists. You’ll also grow to be a much-loved familiar face around the school with a unique opportunity to touch the lives of countless families.

St John’s Primary School – Mullumbimby shifts fall between the school zone hours of 8:20am to 9:20am and 2:30pm to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday, with 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon. School Crossings require 20 hours of supervising per fortnight.

You will receive an hourly rate along with superannuation, and you will also be compensated during school holidays from Terms 1 to 3.

About you

You’re reliable and prepared to show up for your community – in good or bad weather.

You’ll display effective communication skills and be alert to potential dangers.

Applicants must be 18 years of age at the time of appointment. All training, uniforms and equipment will be provided. And one more thing! As you’ll be working with children on our roads, your willingness to obtain a Working with Children Check, Reference Checks, Police Check, and a Health Assessment is vital. Don’t worry if you haven’t done this before, we will help you through the process! If you already have a Working with Children Check, that’s fantastic as that will speed up the process.

Applications close 11:59pm, Wednesday 16 April 2025

Apply Now: jobs.transport.nsw.gov.au/job-invite/98850/

If you have any questions regarding this role or any other locations, please contact: Sandhini Chaudhary via sandhini.chaudhary@transport.nsw.gov.au

For more information and more roles, please visit jobs.transport.nsw.gov.au and search for ‘School Crossing Supervisors’ and find your preferred location.

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25.12.1939 – 4.4.2025
A lovely lady gone. Passed away peacefully at home. Known to many in Brunswick Heads and surrounds. Survived by son Fred, grandson Jed & brother Bob.

PETS


Siena is the last of his litter to be looking for a forever home. Super playful and with a purr like a motorbike, this cutie is looking for lots of love and cuddles.
To meet Siena and our other cats and kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30–4.30pm
Thurs 3–5pm | Sat 10am–12 noon
Call AWL on 6684 4070
Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R25100222

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)


MAXI
Handsome 7-month-old male Kelpie x Bull Arab ‘Maxi’ is an exceedingly sweet natured boy. He is very responsive to directions and corrections, is quite submissive and excellent with other dogs. He will no doubt be a mix of very active combined with chilled affectionate couch potato.
Maxi would suit life on a property/ farm or would be the most charming companion for someone with an active lifestyle with time to exercise and train.
Please contact Shell on 0458461935.
MC: 941000028968305


INDI
Indi is a 1 year old, Bull Arab/Dane/ Mastiff/Bloodhound x. Being a large dog, she’ll need a home with plenty of space. Indi has made great progress with her training and would thrive in a family with older children, that is committed to continuing her education.
#991003002444239
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.
www.friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83126 970 338




Meet Marlow
3-year-old Scottish fold X, Marlow is a quiet and gentle fellow with unique features. He has a stunning black coat and large soulful eyes, but it’s his adorable, folded ears that give him his whimsical appearance. Marlow would suit a quiet home where he can continue enjoying life as an indoor cat.
#R251 00 00 60
61 Piper Drive Ballina
nras.org.au/adoptions


KITTENS


Could these super cute, fun and affectionate kittens be your new family members! Nico, Neo and Nene are tabby and there’s also a cute little black guy (not pictured) Ninja. They will be desexed and vaccinated this week. D.o.b 20/12/25
Microchip no’s are
Nene 900263003505656,
Nico 9002363003505642,
Neo 900263003505651,
Ninja 900263003505652

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SUN, MOON & TIDES – TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (April)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
9	W	6:00 17:34	15:39 2:24	0609 1.58; 1843 1.37	1234 0.44
10	TH	6:01 17:33	16:07 3:19	0646 1.58; 1918 1.45	0026 0.49; 1302 0.40
11	F	6:01 17:32	16:33 4:13	0721 1.56; 1951 1.53	0106 0.46; 1330 0.37
12	SA	6:02 17:31	16:59 5:05	0752 1.53; 2023 1.59	0145 0.45; 1354 0.35
13	(SU)	6:02 17:30	17:27 5:58	0822 1.48; 2054 1.64	0221 0.45; 1419 0.34
14	M	6:03 17:29	17:56 6:51	0853 1.41; 2126 1.67	0258 0.46; 1444 0.35
15	TU	6:03 17:28	18:29 7:47	0924 1.34; 2159 1.67	0335 0.49; 1510 0.37
16	W	6:04 17:27	19:07 8:43	0956 1.26; 2233 1.65	0415 0.53; 1537 0.41
17	TH	6:05 17:26	19:51 9:40	1030 1.18; 2312 1.61	0459 0.57; 1607 0.47
18	F	6:05 17:25	20:41 10:37	1110 1.11; 2357 1.56	0547 0.62; 1642 0.53
19	SA	6:06 17:24	21:37 11:30	1200 1.05	0647 0.66; 1727 0.60
20	SU	6:06 17:23	22:37 12:20	0052 1.51; 1311 1.01	0759 0.67; 1830 0.65
21	(M)	6:07 17:22	23:40 13:04	0201 1.50; 1440 1.04	0910 0.64; 1959 0.67
22	TU	6:07 17:21	13:44	0315 1.53; 1559 1.14	1011 0.56; 2125 0.63
23	W	6:08 17:20	0:44 14:20	0419 1.59; 1700 1.27	1100 0.47; 2236 0.55

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked ‘On The Horizon’ to editor@echo.net.au.

Free Seniors Festival

We are hosting a free Pickleball event as part of the Seniors Festival on Tuesday, April 29, 9 to 11am followed by a free morning tea at the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre. Bring sporty clothes, sneakers, water bottle and learn to play the perfect sport for seniors. It is a fun and easy way to stay active, meet new friends, and keep your body moving.

Wildlife Twins Show

The Byron Bay Library is thrilled to present the Wildlife Twins Show complete with reptiles, a wombat and dingoes. This all-ages child event will introduce you to the superpowers of wildlife and simple ways you can help wildlife in your everyday. Wednesday, April 16 at 10.30 am. Bookings essential 6685 8540 or online www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au.

Mullum Plant Fair

The Mullum Plant Fair is a haven for plant-passionate people, gardeners, and eco-conscious communities seeking a day of inspiration, education, and sustainable living. Join the fun on Saturday, April 26, 9am till 2pm at the Mullum Showgrounds, Main Arm Rd, Mullumbimby. Gold coin donation.

Organic Landcare

OLI’s next working bee will be Saturday, April 12, from 8:30am until 1pm, at Saltwater Creek. Meet at Mullumbimby Community Garden car park. Tasks will be to follow up Green Cestrum. Bring water and some morning tea, for a 11am break and a cup of tea with Abby, MCG grounds person.

Free holiday program

Free autumn school holiday fun is available for young people across the Lismore electorate. The list of free school holiday programs in April includes: Kyogle

Together’s Youth Week regional roller skating event at North Lismore; Far North Coast Hockey Inc’s multi-sports camp in Goonellabah; Rainbow Roos Inclusive and adaptable soccer skills holiday program; North Coast Rugby Union – rugby for good clinic at Byron Bay; Guungyah Ngallingnee Aboriginal Corporation has three events in Tabulam- Jubullym Jarjums Cultural on Country Day, Sports Day, and Bike Fixing Day; Murwillumbah Community Centre’s Youth Fest 2025 To make it easier for families to plan, the program offers an interactive map that makes it easy to find activities nearby. For more details and a full list of activities across your local area, go to: nsw.gov.au/holidaybreak.

Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary

Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary will be holding their Easter Garage Sale on Saturday, April 12 from 8am to 12noon at 105 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Cakes, pickles ,plants and bric a brac on sale. All proceeds go to providing equipment for Byron Central Hospital. For further details please contact Maureen on 6685 3162.

Labyrinth Walk for Peace

The Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans are participating in a world-wide Labyrinth Walk for Peace on Saturday, May 3 at St Mary’s Anglican Church on the corner of Norton and Burnet Streets. The purpose is to create a wave of peace around the world by walking as one at 1pm. The Walk will be held at the St Mary’s labyrinth. As we walk we will be accompanied by music from the Threshold Singers. There are options for those with mobility issues to use a handheld Labyrinth there is also an indoor option in case of bad weather. For further information please contact St Mary’s Anglican Church on 6686 2094.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE 000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay 131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510
Mullumbimby 6629 7570
Byron Bay 6685 9499
Bangalow 6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
Storm & tempest damage, flooding **132 500**
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE
Primary rescue **6685 1999**
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER
..... **6685 0148**
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL 6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS 6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby) 6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
24 hour crisis line **1800 656 463**
LIFELINE 131 114
MENSLINE 1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours
..... **1800 423 431**
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics
..... **1300 252 666**
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Meets daily **6680 7280**
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE 6687 2520
HIV/AIDS – ACON
Confidential testing & information **6622 1555**
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)
..... **6622 1881**
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS 6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE 6622 1233
WIRES – NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service 6628 1898

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
2nd SUN	Tabulam	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	02 6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
4th SUN	Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)	
5th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE	New Brighton	0424 168 672
Each TUE	Organic Lismore	
Each WED	Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
Each WED	Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
Each WED	Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
Each THU	Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each THU	Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
Each FRI	Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
Each FRI	Evans Head 230-6.30	0428 291 068
Each SAT	Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each SAT	Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT	Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
Each SAT	Lismore 8.30-11am	
Each SAT	Wadeville 8am-12pm	
Each SAT	Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
Each SUN	Ballina 7-11am	

The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.

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RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**
Line ads: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid
Display ads: \$70 per week for colour display ad.
Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.
New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au



www.echo.net.au/service-directory

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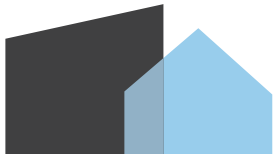
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Open for Inspection

- First National Byron Bay**
- 637 Booyong Road, Booyong. Wed 1.30–2pm
 - 5/31 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Wed 2–2.30pm
 - 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Wed 2–2.30pm
 - 7 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Wed 4–4.30pm
 - 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11–11.30am
 - 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 2–2.30pm
 - 7 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. Fri 9–9.30am
 - 22 Offshore Avenue, Skennars Head. Fri 9.30–10am
 - 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10–10.30am
 - 451 Federal Drive, Federal. Fri 10.30–11am
 - 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 11–11.30am
 - 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Fri 12–12.30pm
 - 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 23A Gordon Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 2/19 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30–10am
 - 5/31 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 17 Blue Horizon Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 23 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 11/31 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 1/51 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 7 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.15 – 11.45am
 - 845 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet. Sat 12–12.30pm
 - 465 Uralba Road, Lynwood. Sat 12–12.30pm
 - 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
 - 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 12.30–1pm
 - 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 2–2.30pm
 - 14A Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sun 10–10.30am

- Sotheby's International Realty Byron Bay**
- 271 Goremans Road, Eureka. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 32 Olivia Circuit, Lennox Head. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 84 Hinterland Way, Tintenbar. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 5 Koala Close, Ewingsdale. Sat 10.30–11am
 - 41 Hyrama Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 18 Red Bean Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am–12pm
 - 15 Muli Muli Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm

- Tim Miller Real Estate**
- 5 Walker Street, Clunes. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 480 Booyong Road, Nashua. Sat 9.45–10.15am
 - 831 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 35 Riverside Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.15–12.45pm
 - 159 Tintenbar Road, Tintenbar. Sat 1.30–2pm

- Dodds Real Estate**
- 11 Campbell Street, Bangalow. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 44 Palm–Lily Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 4 Wattle Place, Bangalow. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 2/28 Blackwood Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 25a Lismore Rd, Bangalow. Sat 12–12.30pm
 - 29 Lismore Rd, Bangalow. Sat 12.30–1pm
 - 118 Arthur Road, Corndale. Sat 2–2.30pm
 - 108 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 4–4.30pm

- Ruth Russell Realty**
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 11–11.45 am
 - 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45 am

- Mana Re**
- 1/50 Hall Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 17 Frances Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 1 Tree Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 38 Banool Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 12–12.30pm

- Harcourts Northern Rivers**
- 2/25 Crane Street, Ballina. Sat 9–9.30am
 - 2c Fletcher Street, Broadwater. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 40 Lindsay Avenue, Wardell. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 19 Bayview Drive, East Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
 - 145 Moylans Lane, Empire Vale. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 89 Bundara Park Road, Tuckombil. Sat 11–11.30am
 - 1149 River Drive, South Ballina. Sat 11.30am–12pm
 - 1/57 Acacia Avenue, Goonellabah. Sat 1.30–2pm
 - 2/57 Acacia Avenue, Goonellabah. Sat 1.40–2pm

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Ten years ago, *The Echo's* April 8, 2015 edition reported 'The number of parents who are telling the federal government they won't be vaccinating their children has doubled since 2006, official data shows'.

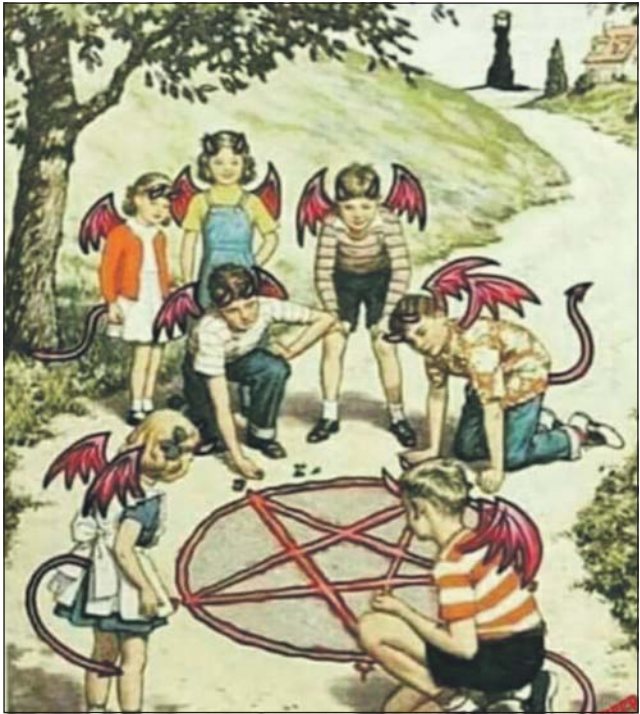
Is the 'Greens' mayor reflecting community expectations by supporting demolition orders on the most vulnerable in our community, or just repeating the same mistakes as previous mayors have done by backing appalling policy? See pages 1 and 14.

New Scientist is reporting that, 'At the largest gathering of physicists in the world, the American Physical Society says it won't back down in the face of executive orders to limit diversity programs'.

Fun fact – there are 170 Australian billionaires. That's a lot of untaxed inert uber-wealth right there sitting somewhere offshore, waiting to fund hospitals, schools, roads and women's DV services. See page 14 for more.

A Community Initiative and Creative Public Spaces program is on offer, where Council offers grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible community groups, individuals and creatives. Deadline is May 16 – for eligibility criteria, visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Grants.

Woah: 'NSW Govt admits to unlawfully strip-searching a woman at Splendour In 2018'; www.pedestrian.tv reports. The story reads, 'The NSW government has conceded there was "no lawful basis" to strip search a Splendour in the Grass festivalgoer amid an ongoing class action



Back in my day, we didn't have the internet or fancy phones. We just had fun the old fashioned way.

alleging widespread unlawful searches across NSW music festivals'. See *The Echo's* drug summit report on page 17.

Remember: If there's an oil crisis and oil companies are making record profits; a healthcare crisis and healthcare corporates are making record profits, and a financial crisis while banks are making record profits, then the companies are the crisis.

Psst: US investigative TV show *60 Minutes* reports they found no criminal record for 75 per cent of the Venezuelan migrants the Trump administration sent to a mega-prison in El Salvador without due process or access to a lawyer.

David Milner continues to publish important and scathing analysis of Australian culture at www.theshot.net.au. His latest is 'The craven crushing of campus dissent'.

ICYMI: SES say the recent flood waters have passed

historical record levels in western NSW.

Shamless plug – the Mullum Plant Fair has a new date: Saturday April 26. It will be held at the Mullum Showgrounds from 9am. For more information, visit www.mullumseed.org.au.

It's unusual to see an apology from any political actor, especially from Opposition leader Petter Dutton. He has reversed his policy around public service forced redundancies, perhaps after seeing now how that clusterf#&ck is playing out in the US under Trump/Musk. His new policy is attrition and hire freezes, something the Community and Public Sector Union say 'could lead to public sector cuts that are significantly higher than 41,000'. [under the previous policy]'

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